April 15, 2012
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- Chicken 5.95
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March will go on despite death threats to EDL leader

onpage 3

Council to change attendance recording

onpage 7

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April 15, 2012
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Custody officer sent to prison

Seven-year term for creating image of 'police informant'

BY JULIA SUTTON
editor@lutonsonsunday.co.uk

A CROOKED Bedfordshire Police worker took a mugshot from his force which ended up on Facebook with the claim that the man pictured was a police informant.

Within hours of the picture appearing on the social networking site, drug dealer Domenico Masciopinto - the man shown in the picture - had been shot by a gunman.

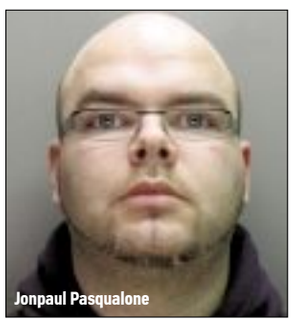
Luckily he survived being shot in the chest and the wrist, but on Thursday the Luton custody officer who had obtained the image across which he then wrote the caption: 'A police informant since 2009' was jailed for a total of seven years.

Judge Stephen Gullick told 28-year-old Jonpaul Pasqualone, who had worked as a £23,000 a year detention and escort officer at Luton Police Station: "The consequences of what you did resulted in a man being shot - fortunately not fatally. Your recompense for what you did was to receive £1,000 in cash."

The judge went on: "When Mr Masciopinto discovered what had happened, he was very annoyed and feared for his own and his family's safety. He was not a police informant and never had been, he was a dealer in Class A drugs based in Bedford."

St Albans Crown Court was told Pasqualone had joined Bedfordshire Police in 2010 in a civilian role working in the custody department and hoped to become a full time officer.

He had also worked as a custody officer at both Luton Magistrates' and Luton Crown courts. In the course of his duties he had access to a number of computerised information systems which contained highly sensitive and confidential police reports and intelligence.



Jonpaul Pasqualone

Domenico Masciopinto

The court then heard how at the end of 2010 Pasqulone, who lived with his girlfriend in a privately owned penthouse flat in Bedford and drove a silver TT Audi with a personal number plate, was contacted by a former friend who had criminal connections.

As a result said Peter Shaw, prosecuting, a week later while working night shifts at Luton Police Station, Pasqualone sat at a computer and under the noses of his bosses accessed a series of intelligence reports relating to the man.

Strict rules govern the viewing of such information and police personnel can only do so for lawful and valid policing purposes. Pasqualone was able to photograph on screen documents using his mobile phone.

In the days that followed he copied more highly sensitive information following requests by his former friend.

On one occasion, Pasqualone downloaded a picture of another associate of his friend and edited the picture with the words 'Police Informant since 2009.'

Judge Gullick was told that on January 16, 2011 pictures of Masciopinto were displayed on the Facebook networking site with the caption that he was a police informant.

"Domenico Masciopinto logged onto Facebook and found the relevant account. He saw that it had a picture of him taken while he was in police custody, he thought in 2010. He saw the text around the picture

Continued on page 2

Uni gets a new boss

A FORMER Government Minister of State for Higher Education is to become the new Vice Chancellor of the University of Bedfordshire.

Bill Rammell, who is currently Deputy Vice Chancellor at Plymouth University, will join Bedfordshire in August, for the start of the new academic year. He was MP for Harlow for 13 years, during which time he was Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education and Minister of State at the Foreign Office and for the Armed Forces.

In his first interview since landing the role Mr Rammell told *Luton on Sunday* the university received unfair criticism over so-called 'Mickey Mouse' education and in an 'ideal world' the university wouldn't charge £9,000-a-year for courses.

Mr Rammell, who takes over from Professor Les Ebdon CBE, who is due to take up a new position as Director of Fair Access to Higher Education at the Office for Fair Access said: "I am delighted to be joining Bedfordshire at such an exciting time for both the university and the higher education sector.

"The university excels at widening participation, transforming lives and communities.

"I think people who have been criticising this university and other institutes about the courses they are running are ill-informed. New courses that are introduced from the outset receive criticism but if you look at the number of applications the university has received for them it tells its own story."

Speaking about the university's fees - which from next year will be the same as Oxford and Cambridge - he said: "In an ideal would I wouldn't want to be charging those figures but if you want a good student experience and with cuts to the education funding you have to. We need to explain this more to people out there and make them aware of it better."

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Here is a simple way of keeping up to date with events 24 hours a day on www.luton-dunstable.co.uk All you have to do to use our QR code is to download a QR Reader app to your smartphone – there are lots of free ones available online. Then scan the code and our website will load for you.

Airport has 37 incidents of people shining laser pens

FIGURES from the Civil Aviation Authority show that laser pens were shone at aircraft approaching Luton Airport on 37 occasions in 2011.

Although there were no accidents as a result of the offences, the CAA is concerned that the numbers of recorded incidents have increased every year since 2008. A spokesman for the CAA said: "We are currently seeing a global surge in incidents of lasers being deliberately shone at aircraft on final approach to airports, but the aviation industry and the police are doing everything possible to combat the problem.

"Shining a laser at an aircraft is a very dangerous thing to do and could result in the pilot losing control during a critical phase of flight, thereby endangering passengers and individuals on the ground."

■ For the latest reaction to Luton Airport's expansion plans, see page 14.

Tory Tom throws hat in the ring for police role

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutonsonsunday.co.uk

A CONSERVATIVE councillor has entered the race to take on the role of elected Police Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire.

Central Beds Cllr Tom Nicols, who represents Toddington ward, announced his bid to become the party candidate for the top policing job after Cllr Richard Stay decided not to stand.

He will face former borough councillor Jas Parmar from Clifton, and Biggleswade-based management consultant Bernard Rix for the nomination.

Cllr Nichols *(pictured)* said: "I need to stress that it is quite a long journey and road ahead, but I can confirm that I have thrown my hat into the ring for the candidate process.

"When Richard Stay said that he was standing, I believed he was a very capable candidate and gave him my full support. However, Richard has decided to stand down and that gave me a chance to rethink my position and consider whether I was suitable for the role.

"I have more experience than most at working cross boundary, particularly with Luton and have supported and listened to their needs and concerns, at some political disadvantage to myself.

"I decided to put myself forward as I believe I have the right background and will make a reasonable candidate.

"The job is very frightening and bigger than most roles in politics at the moment, but I believe it is one that I can do."

Custody worker 'feared for safety', court told

Continued from page 1

saying that he was 'A Police Informant since 2009," said Mr Shaw.

That day as he set about trying to find out who was responsible, Masciopinto was standing outside his home in Reddall Close, Bedford with a friend and on his phone.

Suddenly a gunman approached the pair armed with a handgun. Shots rang out and Masciopinto was shot in the wrist and the chest. A bullet ended up close to his spine at the back of his neck and he had to undergo an emergency operation.

The following day Pasqualone was arrested. At his flat in Bedford officers found two prohibited self-loading pistols that were on display on a wall - which he had bought while on holiday in Bulgaria. Also discovered at the property was an electronic shock device made to look like a mobile phone.

He pleaded guilty in court to conspiracy to commit an act of misconduct in a public office, two offences of possessing a prohibited firearm and possessing a disguised firearm.

Mr Shaw said that in an interview Pasqualone claimed he had been at a cafe in Bedford in November 2010 when he was approached by his former friend who wanted a police picture obtained of Masciopinto with the words 'police informant' printed on it.

"He said the man threatened to f*** him up if he didn't assist in editing the photographs with the words. Pasqualone stated that as a result of receiving this threat that he was scared for his own safety and that of his girlfriend and so he agreed to undertake the task requested," said Mr Shaw.

Last month Masciopinto, 31, was jailed for 14 years at Luton Crown Court after being convicted of two charges of conspiring to supply Class A drugs.

The court heard he had been behind a criminal enterprise bringing drugs to Bedford from Bradford.

After the hearing on Thursday, Beds Police said Pasqualone had formally resigned from his job 'several months ago'.

newsbriefs

SPIC AND SPAN DAY HELD

RESIDENTS and businesses from Bury Park teamed up with council staff to improve a community centre on Friday.

Luton West Indian Community Association provided food for the volunteers throughout the day to give a boost to Bury Park Community Resource Centre.

Luton Borough Council organised the 'Spic and Span Day' event 'to promote the value of volunteering in today's society'. Businesses including Jewsons and AA Carpets donated materials and equipment.

BUSINESS GROWTH 'STIFLED'

MORE than 600 rate appeals are obstructing business growth in Luton, according to an advisory organisation.

Commercial Valuers and Surveyors (CVS) said £3,439,022 of savings is due back to the town's firms due to the appeals currently with the Valuation Office Agency. Business rates rose by an average of 5.77 per cent from April 1.

Mark Rigby, chief executive of CVS, said: "This rise in rates also means that the average retail space can now expect a yearly rates bill in excess of £10,000.

"This figure is to be paid on top of rent and wages. Imagine the amount of trade your local newsagent would have to do to cover that cost."

GET ADVICE FOR PROBLEMS

COUNCILLORS' surgeries will be held at the end of the month to hear about any concerns you may have.

Houghton Hall, Tithe Farm and Parkside Central Bedfordshire Councillors Susan Goodchild, David Jones, Peter Williams and Rita Egan will be holding a Help and Advice Surgery at Houghton Regis Library (in the Meeting Room) on Saturday, April 28 from 10am– noon. For further information call 0300 300 6090.

HATTERS' BUSINESS EVENT

LUTON Town Football Club will be holding their first Business Exhibition on Thursday from 2pm-7pm at Kenilworth Road Stadium.

Commercial manager David Hoskins said: "The exhibition will be an opportunity for local businesses to network and showcase their services."

Groups due to meet to discuss future funding

NEARLY 200 community and voluntary groups will be gathering at a meeting to discuss future funding with Luton Borough Council.

The focus is a new report, published by the independent Commission on Council and Voluntary & Community Sector Relations, that says more needs to be done to ensure that scarce resources are targeted on people who need the most help.

The report makes more than 20 recommendations for improvement, including clear guidelines for funding voluntary groups and setting up a new infrastructure to support them.

The commission's recommendations were accepted by Luton council's Executive last month.

Now, a meeting has been organised for April 26 to brief Luton's organisations and give them a chance to discuss the best way ahead.

Council leader Hazel Simmons said: "Luton's voluntary sector plays a crucial role in the town. But public spending cuts are beginning to bite as demand for services continues to rise.

"In this challenging economic situation, we all need to look at ways in which we can continue delivering help to the people who need it the most."

The commission is made up of representatives from the council and the town's voluntary sector but it is completely independent, designed to consider a wide range of views and come up with an impartial, well-evidenced conclusion."

The report can be downloaded by visiting www.luton.gov.uk/internet/community_and_living/voluntary_organisations

EDL will march despite death threats to leader

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutonsonsunday.co.uk

ENGLISH Defence League leader, Tommy Robinson, has been warned by police there is a threat to his safety, ahead of the group's upcoming protest march through Luton on May 5.

The 'Osman warning' document, as it is known, details that police are in receipt of intelligence that indicates a threat to cause Mr Robinson serious physical harm over the coming weeks.

The document reads 'An EDL march is planned for Saturday, May 5 and together with the planned march and TV programmes it is believed that tensions have risen against both the EDL and yourself as the leader of the EDL'.

But Mr Robinson *(pictured)* said that he isn't concerned by the warning and the march will go ahead.

He said: "This is just scare tactics to try to stop us going ahead with the protest through Luton.

"If we cancelled the march I'd be letting them win.

"The only concern I have is for the safety of my wife and children, I'm not too bothered by the risk to myself.

"I get people ringing my mobile and making threats to me every single day, it's nothing new to me.

"This is the third Osman warning I've had, the first was before the last march in Luton a year ago, and the second was before the demo in Blackburn."

A meeting between the EDL and police took place on Friday regarding the route the demonstration on May 5 would take.

Mr Robinson said: "We were asked whether we would consider staying away from the Town Hall and St George's Square and I told them it is non-negotiable.

"Our protest is against the council, so why can't we stand outside the council building and make our views heard?

"If the police won't let us protest outside the town hall or in St George's Square we will tow the line on May 5, but we will come back and march through Luton every six weeks until we are allowed to do so."

Bedfordshire Police Assistant Chief Constable Andrew Richer said: "Bedfordshire Police are making it a priority to talk to and seek opinions for everyone affected by the proposed event on May 5.

"We are in daily contact with the local authority, community and faith leaders and have deliberately put ourselves right in the middle of the debate."

Leader of the council Hazel Simmons said: "It is unfortunate that we now face potential disruption to our town and through these negotiations our aim is for our town to function normally in the event of any demonstrations."

As the date of the protest nears, Luton Council of Faiths has invited residents to a meeting on Friday outside Bury Park Community Centre to 'promote peace and acceptance while rejecting hatred and prejudice.'

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Cash boost of £1,000 given to 16 organisations in town

GRANTS of up to £1,000 have been awarded to community groups to help them them with projects.

Dunstable Town Council handed out the aid to 16 groups in the town.

The money will go towards the training of six football coaches, travel insurance for a sports trip, general insurance costs, a new boiler for a community venue, exercise classes for a community group and new music for a choir.

Cllr Jeannette Freeman, chairman of the grants panel, *(pictured)* said: "It was wonderful to see so many excellent applications from so many worthwhile causes.

"It really goes to show how strong a community we have in Dunstable with people regularly giving up their time to volunteer and help others."

Pension funds are in deficit by £380m

BY SOPHIE SCOTT
sophie.scott@lutonsonsunday.co.uk

THE pension fund deficits for Luton and Central Bedfordshire councils total around £380 million.

Luton Borough Council has a £180m shortfall, with the assets of £355m coming up well short of its £535m liabilities. That works out at a 'deficit share' of £908 per head of population in the borough.

Central Beds Council is short by £197m, with its liabilities of £533m far outweighing its £336m assets.

Its deficit share comes out at £773 per person in the district.

The figures were published by the TaxPayers' Alliance, which said 'all information is taken from individual local authority annual statement of accounts'.

Local Authorities across the UK had a combined pension deficit of £54 billion in 2010/11 - down from the £91 billion in 2009/10, which was a particularly bad year for local government pension funds.

But, even after a recovery, the latest combined deficit has still increased from £51 billion in 2008/09.

TaxPayers' Alliance director Matthew Sinclair said: "The deficits in the pension schemes at Luton and Central Beds are a ticking time bomb that's being left for future generations of taxpayers to deal with.

"With an ageing population and a crisis in the public finances, generous final salary schemes like these are inflexible and too expensive; the Local Government Pension Scheme needs urgent reform.

"These councils should not take false comfort in the improvement in the stock market.

"Their pension liabilities continue to far outweigh their assets and the situation in Luton is worse than two years ago."

Central Beds Cllr Maurice Jones said: "This is a snapshot, which illustrates the pension assets and liabilities and resulting deficit at a specific time.

"There are a number of reasons why the deficit is significant, among them, the current economic situation and the fact that people are living longer.

"We have recognised the need to address this deficit and residents' concerns by putting in place a recovery plan, to reduce and ultimately eliminate the deficit over the next 20 years."

Sir Steve Bullock, chairman of the Local Government Association, which speaks for all councils on the subject of pensions, said: "Councils have taken steps to ensure the schemes, which are significantly funded by contributions from employees, are affordable for taxpayers, fair to workers and viable in the long term.

"The fact the nominal deficit fell by £37 billion in just a year shows that we are getting it right and that the supposed ticking time bomb is already being defused."

Council tax fraudster stole more than £2k

A BENEFITS fraudster who did not tell the council he had stopped claiming Jobseeker's Allowance has been fined.

Tomasz Lazar, 49, of Mixes Hill Road, Luton, pleaded guilty to a benefit fraud charge at Luton Magistrates' Court on Tuesday.

Luton Borough Council investigated Lazar's benefit claim and discovered his Jobseeker's Allowance claim had stopped.

But he should have told the council's Revenues and Benefits team about this important change in his financial circumstances.

By failing to report the change, he fraudulently obtained Housing and Council Tax benefit of £2,210.

After pleading guilty, the court fined Lazar £75 and ordered him to pay £537 towards the council's costs. He is now repaying the £2,210.

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Service needs more people to help

THE Women's Royal Voluntary Service is looking to recruit new volunteers to join their hospital team.

The WRVS charity is looking for 'keen and enthusiastic' people who would be willing to give some of their time to help out in the retail shop and ward trolley services at Luton & Dunstable Hospital to provide important services for patients, staff and visitors and which operate for seven days per week.

Whether you can spare a few hours once a week, fortnight or each month the charity would really like to hear from you.

Full induction and training is provided and travel expenses are paid.

Anyone who is interested should call the WRVS Volunteer Recruitment Line on 0845 6014670.

Council to change how attendance is recorded

BY SOPHIE SCOTT
sophie.scott@lutonsonsunday.co.uk

THE council will be making changes to the way it records attendance figures after this paper highlighted failings in its system.

Last week *Luton on Sunday* looked at how many meetings Luton Borough Councillors have been to, which, according to figures on the council's website, showed that eight members had attended less than 75 per cent.

However, since publication it has been brought to the council's attention that some of the figures were inaccurate and skewed some councillors' records.

One of the main issues was with attendance at panels where attendance is not mandatory and when representatives were not required to attend they were being incorrectly recorded as being absent.

Cllr David Franks, who raised this with the Town Hall after the story said that five out of the eight

Cllr David Franks

Liberal Democrat councillors had low records, said: "I have never noticed the way those figures look and you are entitled to believe they are accurate. It is the council's system which is at fault and I am glad they have agreed to put it right."

The council has apologised to the councillors, and *Luton on Sunday* readers, for the mistake.

The amended figures for those mentioned in last week's story show that Peter Chapman has attended 59 per cent, less than the 65 per cent initially reported, Martin Pantling has gone down to 66 per cent, while Desline Stewart has also dropped to 70 per cent. Every other councillor has an increased attendance rate as follows: Jenny Davies - 76 per cent, Roy Davies - 70 per cent, Michael Garrett - 78 per cent, Andy Malcolm - 80 per cent and Diane Moles - 95 per cent.

Dean Stokes, head of citizen engagement and strategic policy at the council, said: "Since your article was published it has come to light that the system used to record councillor attendance does not, in relation to two panel meetings, take into account that members are not always required at every meeting.

"The council is committed to ensuring that the information it provides about member attendance at its meetings is as accurate as possible, and your coverage has highlighted some important areas for improvement in the current reporting system. We are looking at system changes that will improve the accuracy of the published figures in the future."

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LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Blackmailer is given two-years in prison

BY JULIA SUTTON
editor@lutonsonsunday.co.uk

A MAN who travelled up from Lambeth in London to collect a £20,000 debt from a Dunstable pizza shop was jailed for two years.

Phillip Watson, 47, was told to collect the money from Fast and Fresh Pizza in High Street North with the promise that he would get regular employment.

When he arrived in the shop at 10pm he told a member of staff Naveed Ashraf to give him the money, Luton Crown Court was told.

He handed Mr Ashraf a mobile phone and an accomplice came on the line making a threat that the shop would be blown up unless the cash was handed over.

Mr Ashraf called the owner who told him to ring the police.

Officers were called and Watson was arrested, said Jonathan Loades for the Crown Prosecution Service.

Watson, of Shore House, Willard Estate, Lambeth, pleaded not guilty but was convicted of blackmailing Naveed Ashraf on December 12, 2010, after a trial. He had previous convictions going back to 1985.

Gelega King, defending, said Watson had been acting as a middle man and had been 'duped' by an associate into travelling to Dunstable to collect a private debt.

He said Watson believed if he had been successful he would have obtained legitimate work for the man's debt collection business.

He said: "All he had been told was to go to the Pizza shop and get the money.

"The people in the pizza shop were not frightened by him. The police were only called when one member of staff called the owner, who said call the police. He was visiting the area legitimately."

He said Watson suffers from kidney disease and has other health issues.

Judge Stuart Bridge jailed him for two years. He said: "The offence is so serious it must be reflected by an immediate prison sentence."

Summer scheme returns

LUTON South MP Gavin Shuker will be championing a summer programme to engage young people in politics and community work.

The four week scheme, now in its second year, will be running from July 17 to August 12, and is aimed at 18-24 year olds.

Mr Shuker said: "As one of the youngest MPs in Parliament, I am keen to show young people what the world of politics is really like."

If you are interested, send a CV and Cover letter, to applications@gavinshuker.org by May 5.

Gavin Shuker MP, centre, with members of last year's scheme

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yourletters

Error was with council

SIR - Liberal Democrat councillors knew, as soon as we saw the front page story in last week's *Luton on Sunday*, that the figures were wrong. But we were horrified when we discovered that the fault was not sloppy reporting but a huge error in the figures published on the council's website.

This massive council error seriously distorted the attendance record for councillors of all parties.

For example, close examination of the published figures for the Alcohol and Taxi Licensing Panels shows attendance figures varying from nine per cent to 50 per cent when these should all have been shown as 100 per cent.

This is because of the particular nature of these panels; councillors are not required to attend every meeting, but only those panels to which they are appointed. For most panels only three members are required.

Because of the way the council recorded these panels, every time a councillor did not attend a meeting of a panel of which they were not in fact a member, and therefore, not required, the council counted them as absent.

In fact all of the members of these panels, of all three parties, did attend every panel meeting when their attendance was required.

In addition, being based on published figures from the council's website, the story included only the main or standing committees.

As every councillor will tell you there are more meetings, many of them of greater importance, than those included in these published figures.

For example, after some time going over my own diary I can say the committees included in the story, and on which I sit, held 63 meetings over the period covered.

In the same period other groups in which I was involved held 151 meetings - none of which are included in the official figures.

Many of the 151 were meetings at which critically important decisions were made on issues like the future of London Luton Airport or on the production of a new local plan to govern the town's development over the next 20 years.

Others covered the appointment of very senior council officers to important posts and meetings with council officers and colleagues to dig into the detail behind far reaching decisions being made by others.

And this does not even include the many meetings with residents groups and individual local residents nor those with important local institutions like the university, religious groups, local voluntary organisations and school governing bodies.

This situation certainly applies to my Liberal Democrat colleagues and probably to councillors of other parties as well.

We are used to council publications missing out inconvenient facts but filling up the official council website with figures which are not just misleading but massively inaccurate is unforgivable.

The council needs to urgently get its act together and publish figures which reflect what is really going on.

Councillor David Franks
Liberal Democrat leader

Changing the way attendance is now recorded

SIR - We welcome your newspaper's move last week to scrutinise councillor attendance at Luton Borough Council meetings.

Unfortunately, the information published on the council's website and consequently included in your front page report included some inaccuracies.

I would like to apologise to your readers and to the councillors concerned for this.

Specifically, since your article was published it has come to light that the system used to record councillor attendance does not, in relation to two panel meetings, take into account that members are not always required at every meeting.

The records for the taxi and private hire and liquor licensing panels show some members as absent when in fact their presence was not required.

This has caused the percentage of meetings attended for several councillors to be incorrectly reduced and we are taking immediate steps to put this right.

Members sometimes have difficult decisions to make deciding which meetings to attend when unavoidable clashes occur in the council's calendar of meetings.

That is one of reasons why attendance at council meetings is not the only criteria for what makes a good and effective councillor.

Elected members also invest a great deal of time and effort in ward casework and attending other meetings of value in the community.

Nonetheless, the council is committed to ensuring that the information it provides about member attendance at its meetings is as accurate as possible, and your coverage has highlighted some important areas for improvement in the current reporting system. We are looking at system changes that will improve the accuracy of the published figures in the future.

The attendance figures for the councillors named in the report have been recalculated manually and are shown below.

Luton Town Hall

Figures for all councillors will also be recalculated and corrected as appropriate.

Councillor - Percentage attendance reported - Actual percentage attendance
Peter Chapman - 65 per cent - 59 per cent
Jenny Davies - 65 per cent - 76 per cent
Roy Davies - 49 per cent - 70 per cent
Mike Garrett - 75 per cent - 78 per cent
Andy Malcolm - 73 per cent - 80 per cent
Diane Moles - 74 per cent - 95 per cent
Martin Pantling - 67 per cent - 66 per cent
Desline Stewart - 72 per cent - 70 per cent

Dean Stokes
Head of Citizen Engagement and Strategic Policy
Luton Borough Council

What about the water?

SIR - Lots has been said about the so-called water shortage and hosepipe ban.

The Government and environmentalists all talk about saving the planet with wind farms and solar panels.

This is all very well, but the Government and councils are also banging on about the need for more houses to be built.

That I agree with, but then we are told to save water.

No one seems to do anything about saving the water that comes off the roofs of these new build houses, they just dig up the road and down the drain the free water goes.

They also say they want to build 20,000 houses and flats per year. Where will that water come from

If we haven t got the water now, what's going to happen in next ten to 20 years' time?

AO Currant
Lime Avenue, Luton

Big decision ahead

SIR - On November 15 for the first time we are going to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner for our area.

Before casting our votes, we should consider very carefully which is the true party of law and order.

Under the last Labour Government the number of police officers reached a record high, community support officers were introduced and the crime rate fell by 43 per cent.

The previous Conservative government had made savage cuts in police numbers with crime rising accordingly. Before the last general election, the Liberal Democrats (thinking they would never hold power) promised 3,000 extra police. Now they are happily supporting the Tories' 20 per cent police cuts and privatisation.

With unemployment soaring and the Government taking even more of our money in taxes, cuts in police numbers will inevitably increase the crime rate.

This is one election where Tories and Lib Dems might consider ditching their traditional loyalties and voting Labour.

Nick Murray
Mullion Close, Luton

Plenty was carried out

SIR - Labour Cllr Roy Davis says (*Luton on Sunday*, April 8) that under the Liberal Democrat administration regeneration stalled. Councillor Davis is talking nonsense.

As Executive Member for Regeneration during that period, I need to set the record straight with a few examples.

We commissioned the Town Centre Development Framework to provide a detailed strategy for the area. No such plan existed under the previous Labour administration and then we started implementing it.

We redeveloped St George's Square in the face of fierce opposition from Cllr Davis - but he now claims credit for it.

The linking of the square to George Street was deliberately postponed to enable the extension to The Mall to be constructed - so Labour have just implemented the original plan.

Provided a £1 million refurbishment of Wardown Park.

Instigated the very successful Stockwood Discovery Centre. We initiated the construction, with Network Rail, of the new station car park, which enabled the ugly old bus station to be demolished.

We upgraded High Town Road and Dunstable Road.

We built Chaul End Community Centre.

Upgraded Park Square.

Planted many hundreds of trees.

Rescued Hightown's Community Sports and Arts Centre from collapse because of Labour's gross mismanagement of the finances.

We facilitated the provision of two new residential extra care sheltered schemes for elderly people - unlike Labour which has now closed all of Luton council's care homes.

The list goes on, but we should consider what Labour have done since they returned to power.

They are constructing the Busway.

They are providing a new swimming pool on the edge of the town which will make access difficult for many people.

They are planning the completion of the town centre ring road - but they have gone for the cheap option rather than the better option.

Of course, the redevelopment of Power Court and the old Vauxhall site stalled because of the recession but the Labour party take no responsibility for this.

Sid Rutstein
Knoll Rise, Luton

What you've been commenting on this week

Road closure

■ I personally think that the busway will be a real asset to the town. Yes of course there will be short term disruption in order to build it, but it will mean that buses can avoid the congestion and travel between Dunstable and Luton in about 15 minutes. For bus passengers, that will be a huge improvement. Added to that, we will get a proper bus interchange with the station in the centre of the town. I also believe that a regular frequent bus service that can serve outlying areas such as the Dunstable estates, the hospital and Houghton Regis is always going to give a more flexible option than an infrequent rail service.
Bryan Davey

■ **As everybody knows, the bus way is an exorbitantly expensive white elephant. It would have been far cheaper to reinstate the railway . . . It would seem that Cllr Roy Davis is living in cloud cuckoo land. We do not understand what it is that drives him forward with this project that causes traffic chaos and that no Dunstable or Luton residents want.**
Einstein

■ Regarding 'More parking at library at £1,700 a space' - it's a complete joke. People park on the roundabout which is against the law and once parked they pull off without looking or indicating. Why did they get rid of the old car park?
Marsh Farmer

THE TOP FIVE STORIES ON OUR WEBSITE THIS WEEK
■ Row breaks out over road closures for busway work
■ Lady claims she's being 'picked on' in notice dispute
■ Lib Dems must try harder
■ Fraudster kept savings a secret and stole £1,800
■ Fears for hygiene as factory brings in new time rules

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letters policy

LETTERS, preferably a maximum of 300 words, must arrive by 3pm on Wednesday. Full name and address must be supplied. Details will be withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Write to: Letters to the Editor, Luton on Sunday, 28 King Street, Luton, LU1 2DP. You can also email your letters to: editor@lsnmedia.co.uk

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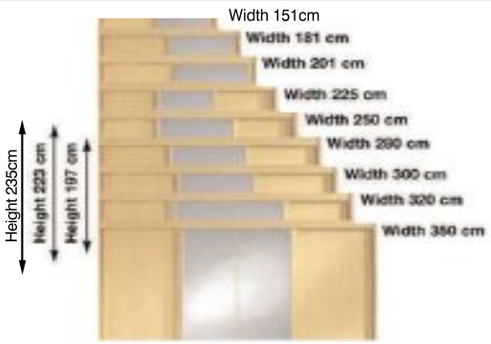

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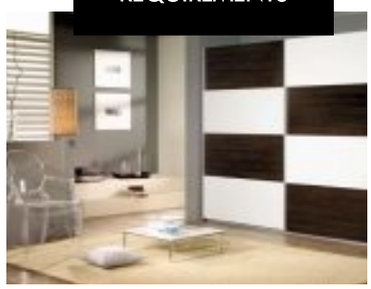

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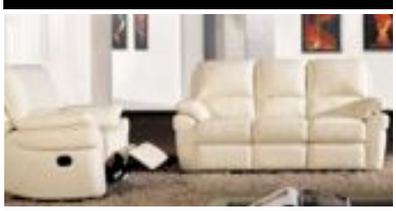

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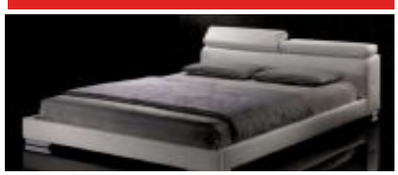

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chrisgill

Bank holidays bring the same old misery

I'M always glad to see the back of Easter – and there, it's gone now. It's nothing to do with religion, or stuffing my face with chocolate. It's the build-up. You know, the usual thing – petrol crisis to ruin holidays, prepare to be snowed in, baggage handlers to strike, immigration queues misery for travellers.

If you, like me, missed out on playing a part in those headlines, don't fret. We have another chance in three weeks time, and again 28 days later.

Some situations are made for bank holidays and you can almost lift and dust the same old chestnuts from newspapers around a year ago.

Much was made this Easter of the expected chaos at airport passport controls as people returned from their breaks to find an understaffed and extremely strained UK Border Agency.

So spare a thought for those flocking back today – according to who you believe, they may spend longer in the immigration queue than it takes them to fly back from Spain.

I remember when there used to be just two queues at airports – EU and non EU – now you can barely count the routes in on one hand.

True the conventional entry remains, but if you have a chipped passport, you can whip through the electronic gates avoiding human contact.

Then there is, or was, the magic eye iris-recognition system, hugely hailed, which has since been withdrawn from some airports because of its unreliability.

According to the publicity you could be on your way home in 12 seconds – but the reality was something else.

If you are lucky enough to emerge from first class travel, you can take a short cut and avoid standing with the plebs – while bizarrely, non-Europeans, who for some reason always seem to be in the shortest line, appear to waltz through. The immigration issue to me, and clearly because of the vast numbers of people involved, will always be an airport one.

Going through the ports can be very hit and miss, and basically at some points getting in and out of the country unchecked can be a bit of a lottery and nothing to do with staffing levels.

About 12 years ago I was on a youth football trip from Bedfordshire to Holland. We skipped through Dover without a challenge.

On our return there was a little more interest. One immigration officer got onto the 49-seater coach and proceeded to check documents while 26 kids kicked off at the back.

Amid the chaos, he shrugged his shoulders, asked did everyone have a UK passport – took the 'yes' answer at face value and let us on our way.

Which was just as well, it turned out later that two of the blighters had out of date passports.

So effectively, it was that easy to spirit in two 13 year-olds.

A year later, it was different when one of my sons and myself went to Bruges to watch the not so mighty Cercle lose to Germinal Beerschot.

We like European football – trouble was the bloke who stopped us at Calais didn't believe us.

I could see he had us down as a pair of smugglers, making a desperate dart home on a Sunday morning.

I had to give him the result, goalscorers, the attendance, colour of kits, names of every fan in the crowd and an impressive list of other venues we'd previously visited in our hobby.

After checking our answers out on his computer, he begrudgingly welcomed us home. Quite ruined his day, we did.

Anyway, I digress.

Hopefully the summer headlines this year will be less predictable, it may rain heavily, there may, or may not, be enough petrol to go around, but at least the Olympics will give the papers something to fill their tree-sized editions - assuming the competitors manage to get into the country.

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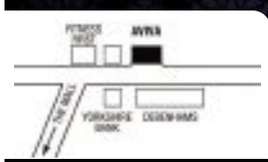

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£20 for 5 weeks		
Bowls	Lancaster Avenue Bowls Club	Sundays starting 6th May (10:30 - 12:30)
£2 pay as you go..... or £9 for 6 weeks (25% Discount)		
Boxing (Men's Only)	Luton Academy Boxing Club	Fridays starting 27th Apr (20:45 - 21:45)
Boxing (Women's Only)	Luton Academy Boxing Club	Fridays starting 27th Apr (19:30 - 20:30)
Both £4 pay as you go..... or £24 for 8 weeks (25% Discount)		
Golf (Beginners & Intermediates)	Stockwood Park Golf Club	Various Sessions. See Website for Details
From £30 for 6 weeks		
Hockey (Women's Only)	Luton Sixth Form College	Tuesdays starting 24th Apr (18:30 - 19:30)
£4 pay as you go..... or £18 for 6 weeks (25% Discount)		
Netball	Luton Regional Sport Centre	Mondays starting 14th May (18:30 - 20:00)
£4 pay as you go..... or £24 for 8 weeks (25% Discount)		
Rounders	Popes Meadow	Thursdays starting 26th Apr (19:00 - 20:00)
FREE Sessions for 8 weeks		
Running	Wigmore Hall (Starting from)	Tuesdays starting 8th May (12:30 - 13:30)
FREE Sessions for 6 weeks		
Squash	Lewsey Sports Park	Wednesdays starting 9th May (19:00 - 20:00)
£20 for 6 weeks		

Dunstable & Leighton Buzzard Area

Badminton	Houghton Regis Leisure Centre	Saturdays starting 21st Apr (9:30 - 11:00)
£4 pay as you go..... or £24 for 8 weeks (25% Discount)		
Golf (Beginners)	Chalgrave Golf Club	Sundays starting 29th Apr (15:00 - 16:00)
£30 for 6 weeks		
Golf (Intermediates)	Chalgrave Golf Club	Wednesdays starting 25th Apr (10:00 - 11:30)
£45 for 6 weeks		
Golf (Beginners)	Leighton Buzzard Golf Club	Wednesdays starting 25th Apr (13:00 - 14:00)
Golf (Beginners)	Leighton Buzzard Golf Club	Saturdays starting 28th Apr (13:00 - 14:00)
Both £30 for 6 weeks		
Golf (Beginners)	Tilsworth Golf Club	Wednesdays starting 25th Apr (19:30 - 21:00)
Golf (Beginners for Women Only)	Tilsworth Golf Club	Wednesdays starting 25th Apr (10:30 - 12:00)
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Golf (Intermediates)	Tilsworth Golf Club	Saturdays starting 9th Jun (14:30 - 16:00*)
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Mountain Biking	Aspley Woods	Thursdays starting 10th May (19:00 - 21:00)
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Nordic Walking	Chiltern Gateway, Dunstable Downs	Saturdays starting 28th Apr (14:00 - 15:00)
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Rounders	Luton Road Park, Toddington	Tuesdays starting 24th Apr (19:00 - 20:00)
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Running	Dunstable Football Club	Wednesdays starting 18th Apr (19:00 - 20:00)
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Tennis	Dunstable Tennis Club	Thursdays starting 26th Apr (19:00 - 20:00)
Tennis	Dunstable Tennis Club	Saturdays starting 28th Apr (14:00 - 15:00)
£5 pay as you go..... or £30 for 10 weeks (40% Discount)		
Tennis	Eaton Bray Tennis Club	Wednesdays starting 25th Apr (19:00 - 20:00)
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Tennis	Slip End Tennis Club	Mondays starting 23rd Apr (18:00 - 19:00)
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Bus passenger numbers rise

CENTREBUS passenger numbers rose sharply last month, coinciding with the fair weather that residents enjoyed.

Services in the region have become steadily more popular in the region generally; with passenger figures rising by around 44 per cent between February 2011 and February 2012.

However, the services also saw a further 21 per cent increase between February and March; a surge which Centrebus rarely sees in such a short period of time. Spokeswoman Gemma Holt said: "We are surprised and delighted by the recent passenger count on our Luton buses.

"We pride ourselves on providing a wide-ranging set of travel options within Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire which are made accessible through our services."

Authorities hit out over airport expansion plans

BY SOPHIE SCOTT
sophie.scott@lutonsonsunday.co.uk

NEIGHBOURING councils and an MP have spoken out against plans to increase capacity at the airport.

Parish councils in Hertfordshire have raised objections to the proposal which would see annual passengers numbers almost double at Luton Airport to 18 million.

And the Under Secretary of State for Transport, and Hemel Hempstead MP, Mike Penning, has added his voice to the concerns.

He said: "I still believe that Luton Airport should remain a medium haul, medium-sized airport and urge Luton Borough Council and London Luton Airport Ltd to exercise their powers, rights and influence to limit plans for significant expansion in the number of flights and compel the operator to deal with the existing problems of inadequate facilities, access and noise."

Redbourne Parish Council has issued a statement which said: 'Luton Borough Council may benefit financially but the communities to the south of Luton would pay the price environmentally.'

A spokesman for Luton Airport said: "We are currently considering all the comments and feedback on our proposals to optimise and grow the capacity of London Luton Airport, which we received during our six-week consultation period which ended on March 26.

"The benefits from optimising the airport will be felt throughout the region, not just in Luton, in the form of new jobs in and around the airport and other inward investment.

"LLAL is working to mitigate adverse impacts of its proposals on neighbouring communities and we will continue to engage actively with interested parties, as we have done so far."

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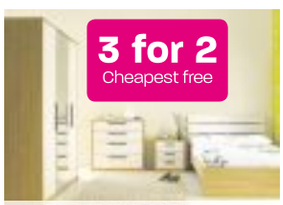

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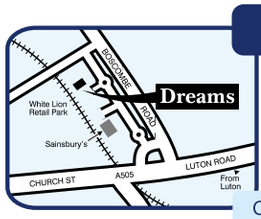

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New tags will keep

A GPS tag could prevent low level criminals re-offending by tracking where they go, but what if it could be used for more serious crimes? Reporter **KATHRYN CAIN** spoke to assistant chief constable Andrew Richer about how the scheme might work . . .

Assistant chief constable Andrew Richer

"THIS is a really exciting bit of technology with a lot of scope for fighting crime," states Acc Richer as he tells me how the force hopes to tackle burglary, vehicle crime and robbery, some of Bedfordshire's biggest problems when it comes to repeat offending.

Following a report in *Luton on Sunday* last month, Acc Richer explains how the county will be the first to introduce Global Positioning System (GPS) tagging as part of court bail conditions to track whether serial offenders are slipping back into a life of crime.

He says: "Many current bail conditions such as a curfew or not to go to a certain place do not prevent offenders committing a crime elsewhere.

"The new tag would allow us to check whether a repeated offender is at the scene of a crime when it happens or rule them out by having proof they weren't there."

Although at present the 14 participants in the GPS tag scheme, which has been in place in the county since last June, are taking part voluntarily, it is possible that by working with the Home Office, it could become enforceable through the courts within weeks.

Although Bedfordshire Police will initially work to combat less serious crimes, the tag could be used to deal with criminals such as sexual offenders and people involved in domestic violence.

The assistant chief constable said: "If there is an offender living in your community and residents do not want them to go near a school at opening and closing times or indeed at any time the school is open, we can monitor whether or not they have gone there as part of their prevention order."

Acc Richer claims that in cases where the police are aware of domestic violence between two individuals, it could be possible for the abuser to wear a compulsory tag while the victim wears one voluntarily and if the pair come too close the police are alerted and can take action in time to prevent any violent behaviour taking place.

He says: "We are taking it a step at a time. Firstly we will use it to prevent mainly vehicle crime and burglary by tagging criminals who are targeting empty properties or cars as these are the most prolific offenders.

"People committing these crimes will soon be able to expect to end up wearing one

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closer eye on those who break the law

A tracker tag device

of these tags if they are put out on bail and in more violent cases where the court is not minded to remand the criminal into custody, this will be a good way of keeping a check on what they are doing.

"Obviously we are conscious of not wanting to expand surveillance. We have no intention to watch what people are doing 24 hours a day or find out about their private lives."

It is also believed, despite mixed results for present volunteers, that the GPS tags can help rehabilitate serial offenders who are sick of living a life of crime to get back on their feet and give them a second chance.

In addition to receiving treatment for drug and alcohol problems and help with housing and gaining employment, it is believed the tagging system will prevent criminals responding to peer pressure from their friends to get involved in a crime by giving them a reason to stay out of trouble.

"So far the results have been mixed for different people but it does appear that it has curtailed offending for prolific offenders and has changed their behaviour very effectively." says Acc Richer.

"Unfortunately some people have breached their conditions while on the tag and have ended up being sent to prison but it has worked in both ways to reduce crime as some people have stopped their offending and others are behind bars so there is less crime either way."

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New book will take a look at 21 years of hospice

KEECH Hospice will celebrate its 21st birthday this week with a book launch.

The book - 'Tears and Laughter: the first 21 years of Keech Hospice Care' - brings together the history of the facility, in Great Bramingham Lane, Streatley, and stories of those who have been involved since its creation in 1991 and is launched at the event, being held at 2pm on Wednesday.

Keech ambassador Pam Rhodes, TV presenter and author, will be giving its first reading.

She said: "Over two decades, I've watched Keech grow from its hopeful beginning to the wonderful place it is today - a reassuring combination of professional skill, compassion, encouragement and loving care where every second of life is precious and valued."

Keech is celebrating its 21st birthday throughout the whole of 2012 with a number of events.

We must get on track, say First Capital chiefs

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutonsonsunday.co.uk

REPRESENTATIVES from First Capital Connect (FCC) have admitted that their service for commuters hasn't been good enough.

Customer services director Keith Jipps and Integration Manager Larry Hayman were called to attend an Overview and Scrutiny meeting at Luton Town Hall on Tuesday after complaints of regular delays and full trains.

During the meeting, it was mentioned that FCC had bid to run the new 'Thameslink Franchise' which would combine all their services with South Central and South Eastern networks.

But Mr Jipps said that if the company continued to perform the way that they have been, they 'don't deserve to be there' this time next year. It was also confirmed that the upgrade of Luton Station, which would include a new bridge and stairs, should go ahead for March 2014.

UNDER FIRE: FCC

Amy O'Callaghan, Labour councillor on the Overview & Scrutiny Board, said: "The statistics show that the service provided by FCC just isn't up to scratch.

"All too often, passengers are ill informed of delays and are crammed on to four-carriage trains during rush hour, often having to stand.

"Luton doesn't deserve this raw deal from FCC and I hope this is properly addressed in the new franchise."

Speaking after the meeting, Larry Hayman, who is a spokesman for FCC, said: "I'm a commuter myself and experience delays and full trains like all other passengers, but I can assure you that a schedule of clear action has been planned to improve our service.

"Work to facilitate the new Thameslink franchise that has been ongoing since 2009 is due to be completed in May, and we believe this will have a positive effect on our services.

"The new improvements to the bridge and stairs at Luton are scheduled for 2014, and longer eight and 12 carriage trains are expected to be running by 2015."

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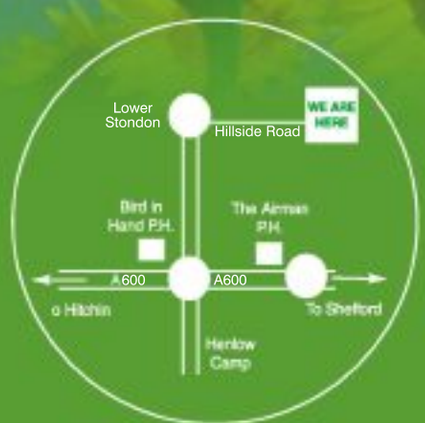

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Fears over future of rollerskating class

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutonsonsunday.co.uk

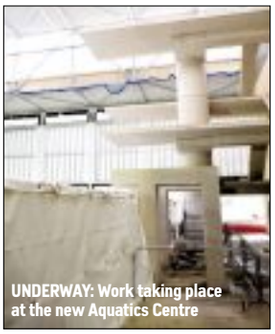
A ROLLERSKATING teacher fears that he will be forced to stop running his classes if the new Aquatics Centre cannot accommodate him.

At present, Malcolm Chapman uses Luton Regional Sports Centre, St Thomas' Road, to teach around 60 children how to roller-skate on Tuesday nights.

But he has concerns that once the sports centre closes there will be no room for the class in the new Aquatics Centre, which is being built just up the road from the current facility.

Mr Chapman said: "The fact is, the existing sports centre has three sports halls and they are in full use.

"The new building has the equivalent of two, leaving the south of the town very short of dry amenity space. Last summer clubs and users of the Regional Sports Centre were informed that we would know where our replacement amenity would be by the end of December, then in January we received a letter from Active Luton admitting there were complications with the reallocation process.


UNDERWAY: Work taking place at the new Aquatics Centre

"I've been trying to find an appropriate site for the class to relocate to, but at the moment there isn't anything.

"If there is no room for me at the Aquatics Centre, and I can't find an alternative, the classes will have to stop, which will be very disappointing as the children will be doing less sport."

A council spokesman said: "The final details of the planned closure of the regional sports centre are still being worked up and Active Luton has written to all of the clubs that use the centre to keep them fully up-to-date and informed on progress.

"Another letter will be sent shortly.

"The priority will of course be to ensure that there is minimal impact to customers during any transition."

Charity calls for more foster carers

ACTION for Children is hosting an open morning to encourage residents to help change the lives of some of the UK's most vulnerable children by becoming foster parents.

The event will take place on Tuesday at the Stockwood Hotel in Stockwood Crescent, Luton, and will give people the chance to meet and speak with charity Action for Children's fostering team.

Jacqui Clarke, Fostering and Adoption, Recruitment and Policy Officer at Action for Children, said: "Many people think they aren't legible to foster or aren't sure that it's definitely for them, so this is a perfect chance to speak with our team and find out more about fostering."

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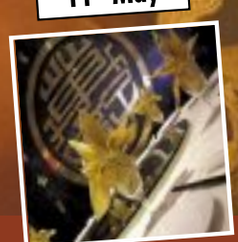

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Man lands curfew for having fake bus pass

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutonsonsunday.co.uk

A RESIDENT who left his wallet on public transport has been convicted of fraud for possessing a counterfeit bus pass.

Alan Noonan, 46, of Rutland Court, on Crawley Green Road, Luton, appeared at Luton Magistrates' Court charged with possessing an article for use in the course of or in connection with fraud.

A bus company contacted Luton Borough Council after finding a wallet belonging to Noonan on a bus in Park Street in Luton on December 11.

While officers were checking the wallet for identification, they discovered the bus pass which was later revealed as counterfeit.

The council's Audit and Investigation Team were called in to investigate the fraud and as a consequence, Noonan was summonsed to appear in court.

Noonan pleaded guilty to the charge and received a three month Community Order with a 14 day curfew from 9pm to 9am, and was also ordered to pay £100 towards the council's costs.

Cllr Robin Harris said: "Fraud comes in all shapes and sizes.

"Working with our transport partners, this individual has been caught and for the sake for a few pounds, he now has a criminal conviction for fraud."

If you have financial problems and you are falling behind with your council tax or rent, get help now by calling the council on 0300 790 0345, see www.luton.gov.uk/helpwithdebt or visit the Town Hall. If you suspect someone you know is a fraudster, please call the fraud hotline on 0500 500 777 or email fraud@luton.gov.uk

Big Pedal's a big success

PUPILS from 16 schools took part in national competition The Big Pedal by riding their bikes and scooters to school.

In total, schoolchildren from Luton made more than 12,000 'green' journeys, with Cheynes Infant School and Wigmore Primary School winning the prize of a visit from a BMX display team.

Cllr Dave Taylor *(pictured)* said: "All of the participating schools from Luton did a brilliant job during The Big Pedal.

"There are huge benefits to cycling, walking or scooting to school.

"It can help to save money on petrol, and reduce the amount of cars on the road."

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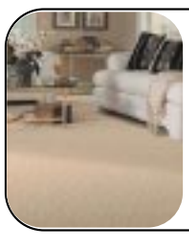

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- Private rear garden

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- 2 Reception Rooms
- Private rear garden
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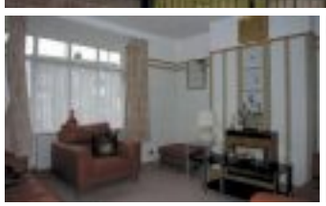
Situated in one of Luton's most prestigious locations. Extended to the lounge and kitchen and having a nice conservatory overlooking the south facing garden.

OLD / NEW BEDFORD ROAD AREA

- 3 Bedrooms
- 1 Bathrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Garden



Price £219,995

WELL PRESENTED SEMI DETACHED OFF NEW BEDFORD ROAD
You will need to be quick if you wish to view this immaculate home in this most popular of locations which has a nice sun room overlooking the rear garden. .
The house has two reception rooms and a nice kitchen.
Full double glazing and gas central heating also.
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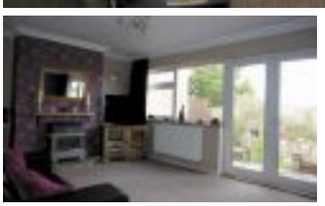
ST ANNES

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Private rear garden
- 1 garage(s)



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South Luton £164,950

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Putteridge area £164,995

3 beds • porch & hallway • lounge/diner • refitted kitchen/breakfast rm • upstairs modernised bathroom • double glazing • gas c/h• garage at rear

Central Luton £120,000

2 bed with potential for 3rd sub to regs. 2 receptions Large upstairs bathroom Dble glaz. Rear garden Chain free Ideal investment or 1st home Offers oieo £120,000

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- Subject to planning consent
- Double Garage
- En Suite

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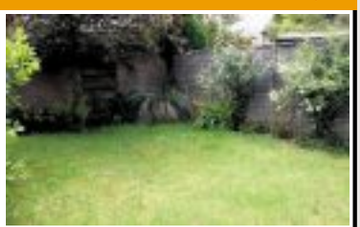
ONE BED CLUSTER HOME — £124,995



- Barton Hills
- One Bedroom
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1 BED

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1 BED

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2 BED

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1 BED

11f Guildford Street
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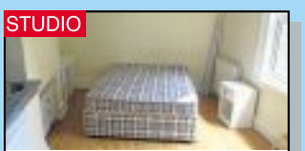

2,17 Stockwood Cres
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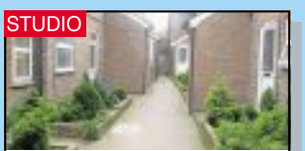
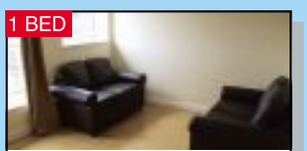
STUDIO



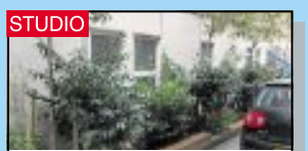
37c Chapel Street
STUDIO APARTMENT. FF, GCH, DG Fitted kitchen with appliances, Fitted shower room, laminated flooring,
£375 pcm

1 BED



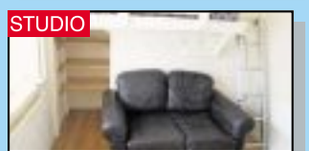
Park Street
1 BED MODERN FLAT. FF, GCH, DG Fitted kitchen with appliances, Fitted bathroom with shower, laminated flooring, Lounge, ORP.
£575 pcm

STUDIO



11c Guildford
STUDIO APARTMENT. FF, GCH, DG Fitted kitchen with appliances, Fitted shower room, laminated flooring,
£350 pcm

STUDIO



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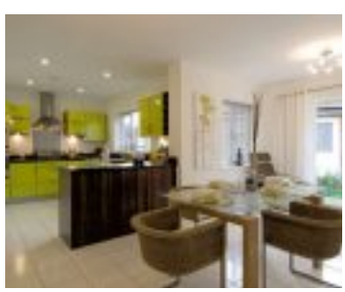

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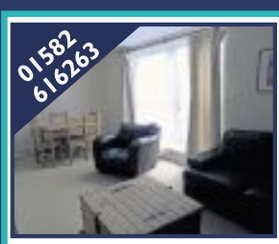

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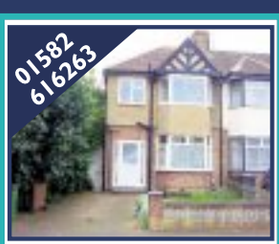

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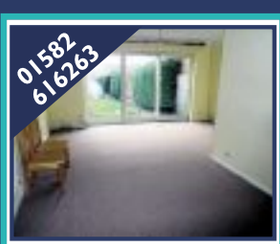

Bramingham Road, LU3 £800 pcm

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- Unfurnished
- Double Glazed And G.C.H
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announcements

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Birthdays

MARJORIE BINGHAM
Congratulations Mum on your 90th Birthday 14th April
With all our love June, Richard and Lorraine, Margaret and Peter and Families xxx

JACKIE SWALES
Happy Birthday for tomorrow
Lots of love from Swigs, Maggie, Jess, Kizer the dog, Smoky the parrot and all the lads at S&S Removals x

GERALD STANLEY O'DELL
April 16th 2012
65 Today.
Happy Birthday Gerald
Love Nolma, Nancie, Jan, Moss and Kirstie xx

40th Birthday
JAINEY GAINES
Happy 40th Birthday
Here's to the next 40 years putting up with me!!
Lots of love always your future Hubby xxx

LOL FOORD
80th Birthday
"Up The Hatters"
Happy Birthday
Lots of love
Anita, Julie, David, Olivia, Mark, Aaron, Karina, Adam, Emilia, Rhys x x x

GERALD STANLEY O'DELL
April 16th 2012
65 Today.
Happy Birthday Gerald
Love Nolma, Nancie, Jan, Moss and Kirstie xx

Deaths

DAVIS Jacqueline (Jacky). A loving and much loved Daughter of Brian and Margaret Davis, Sister Joanne, Partner Linda and Auntie to Becky and Craig passed away suddenly on Thursday the 29th March 2012 aged just 50 surrounded by her loving family. A funeral service will take place at All Saint's Church, Caddington on Monday 16th April at 1.45 p.m. All are welcome to attend the service. Flowers are welcome and may be sent to White Dove Funeral Home. 50 High Street South, Dunstable.

JELLIS On March 27, John William Jellis of Matlock Crescent Luton aged 84 yrs. Flowers welcome. Date and time to be confirmed for further details please conatact Neville Funeral Service 01582 490005.

NATHAN GARY JOHN STRANGE
Of Westoning.
Tragically on the 7th April 2012.
A former student of Queensbury School, Dunstable.
Beloved son to Gary and Gaynor, much loved brother to Jenna, Lydia and Emily.
He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral service takes place on Thursday 19th April at Westoning Parish Church at 2.00pm followed by interment. Family flowers only by request, if desired in memory of Gary, donations to M.I.N.D. may be sent c/o Neville Funeral Service, The old Church, Flitwick Road, Ampthill, Beds Mk45 2NT, 01525 406132.

In Memoriam

IN MEMORIAM
JOHNNY FARRELL
April 15th 2008
Dad & Grandad
You are always in our thoughts
and truly missed.
Love
John, Liz & Daniel
xxx

BRENDA MITCHELL
In loving memory of our dear mother who passed away 15th April 2011.
Always in our thoughts
love Janice, Mandy, James and Families

In Memoriam

VIOLET ASHPOLE
Treasured memories of a much loved Wife, Mother, Grandma and Great Grandma.
Who passed away 12th April 2009.
Resting where no shadows fall,
Loved and remembered by us all.
Tony, Stephen, Kevin, Ivan, Sally and Ann

In Loving Memory Of
SELVEN HEWITT
Third Anniversary
Passed away 14th April 2009.
Missed by his Wife Urcelina, Children Shirley, Emmy, Stephen, Nevil and Grandchildren.
God Bless xxx

PATRICIA CONWAY
'Pat'
26/09/1953 - 13/04/2010
Two years have passed since you were taken away,
In our hearts and thoughts every single day.
Love you forever and sorely missed
Your 5 Daughters and 7 Little Stars

In Memoriam

PAULINE HALE
April 14th 2010
Remembering a dear friend
Pam

YERRILL - Eric 16th April 2004. You did your best and left us wonderful memories, you will forever remain with us, love your wife Dorothy, Sandra, Louie, Francesca, Natalie & Josh x

SAMEUL JOHNSON
21st April 2006
Loving Husband, Father, Father-in-law, Grandfather and Great Grandfather.
Miss you every passing day.
Never more than a thought away.
God bless,
Love from all the family

JANICE DODSON
11.5.47 - 15.4.98
14 years gone and still missed every day.
Mike, Nathan, Nicola and Bry

GOODMAN In loving memory Dad. Peter John Goodman. Sadly taken 15.4.10. Always missed. Never Forgotten. Love Always Shaun Peter and Family

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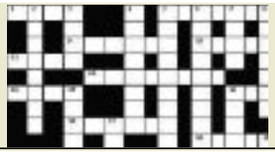
Mark Drake's back home performing in a classic

onpage40



Just for fun - the *LoS* puzzle corner

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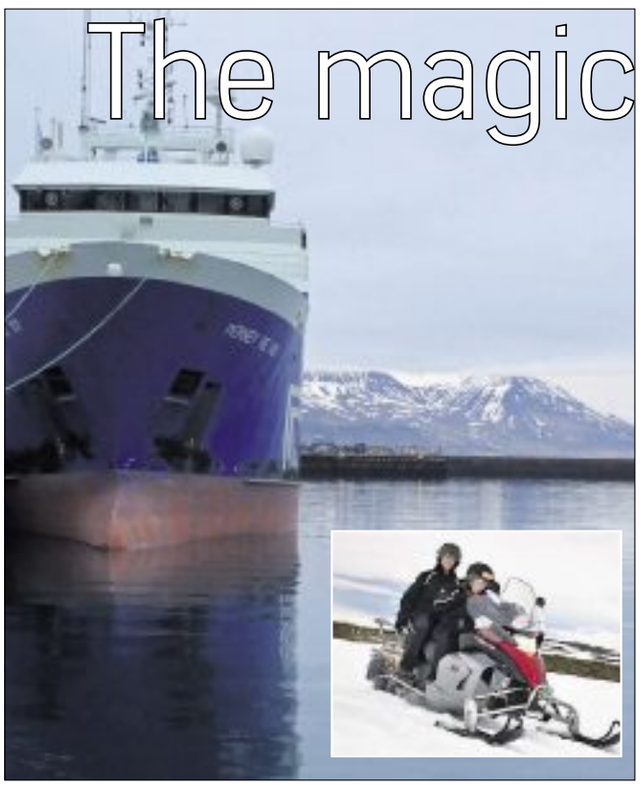
TRAVEL REVIEW

The magic of Iceland



LEFT: A ship in Reykjavik harbour while Keeley has a go on a snowmobile, inset. Top right, Keeley and pals enjoy the Blue Lagoon. Above, a Reykjavik street

IT'S fair to say Iceland has made a few headlines in recent years, and not always for the right reasons.

So looking to dispel misconceived ideas and dressed in my finest winter gear, I hopped aboard easyJet's newest route from Luton to Keflavik, for a 48-hour voyage of discovery.

And it didn't take long for my warm layers to be replaced by the warmest of welcomes and my preconceptions to be cast off into the crisp Nordic air.

In two days I was given just a glimpse into the wealth of natural beauty the country has to offer while the tip of the iceberg left me wanting to see what else lies beneath the mysterious landscape.

Sipping a cocktail while relaxing in the steaming Blue Lagoon – the outdoor geothermal spa which has a modest natural temperature of 37-39 degrees Celsius – I wonder how this could possibly be the same place that led to the grounding of the world's air traffic in 2010. But, not long into my stay, I could easily see why it's known as the land of fire and ice and not just for the explosive headlines.

It was hard to believe that after just a three hour flight we were transported to this magical environment like no other I'd seen before.

As the mountain jeeps picked us up from the airport, matching the Martian-type landscape, I had to pinch myself to check it wasn't all a dream. The barren scenery really is out of this world and you could tell our tour guide Villi had seen reactions like ours before when he jealously remarked: "I wish I was coming here for the first time."

I don't think I was the only one speechless and I can well sympathise with those who have struggled to define Iceland over the years.

Driving through the countryside the vastness of it all took my breath away and with a population of less than the city of Preston in a country almost equal in size to England there's plenty of space to go round.

One of the locals tells me that there are more puffins than people in Iceland – a fact I can well believe – as I've already seen more horses than humans in the wilderness.

Iceland has always caught my imagination and I snapped at the chance to visit it, even if it was just for a short time and I don't think I could ever get bored of seeing picture-postcard backdrops of snow covered mountains or the crystal clear waters snaking through the foreground around Scandinavian inspired houses.

We packed in many of the attractions including the Golden Circle tour which takes you to the impressive geysers and even at one of the 'tourist hot-spots' there's not a queue in sight.

Just as the water bubbles up and explodes before disappearing again within seconds, reports of the 2008 banking collapse are a million miles away from my thoughts as I marvel at yet another symbol of the country's natural volatility.

It's not just the scenery that warmed my senses leaving me wanting more. Being a bit of a foodie the local delicacies were equally as inspiring.

We lunched at the incredible Lindin Bistro in the heart of the Golden Circle and sampled chef Baldur Öxdal Halldórsson's reindeer pate (another first for me) which was surprisingly tasty (sorry Rudolph) topped off by his famous chocolate mousse - as mentioned in Lonely Planet - just a sniff was enough to tempt me from my non-chocolate eating lent. Tummies full and cheeks warmed we were ready for a spot of snowmobiling . . . and even more surprisingly, I didn't fall off.

The thing I learned about Iceland is that you can do as much or as little as you please and there are attractions to suit all moods. Hotel Borg in the capital of Reykjavik provided the perfect retreat and base for exploring the city with its central location and modern yet charming rooms.

And there's plenty to keep you entertained in the cultural capital whether you are interested in history, art or music.

Our final evening in the quirky Kex hostel, complete with live music and the ultimate chilled atmosphere, topped off our stay brilliantly and I reflected on something one of the Icelanders had said to me in jest – "we gave you ash instead of cash".

After two days in their country it's safe to say that despite recent events, if currency was beauty and uniqueness, they're the richest nation on the planet.

KEELEY KNOWLES

Info Station

KEELEY flew from London Luton Airport to Keflavik International Airport with easyJet.

Fares start from as little as £32.99 for a one-way ticket and £58.81 for a return flight (including taxes).

A two night stay at the four star Hotel Borg costs from £227 per person on a room-only basis departing on April 22.

Prices include flights and accommodation and are based on two sharing unless otherwise stated but exclude transfers and baggage.

Some payment methods attract a handling fee.

To book visit easyJet.com/holidays.

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1960s Mississippi

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AWARD-winning novel and film 'The Help (PG)' will be screening at The Alban Arena.

Set in Mississippi during the 1960s, Skeeter (Emma Stone) is a southern society girl who returns from college determined to become a writer, but turns her friends' lives - and a Mississippi town - upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent southern families.

Aibileen (Viola Davis), Skeeter's best friend's housekeeper, is the first to open up - to the dismay of her friends in the tight-knit black community.

Despite Skeeter's lifelong friendships hanging in the balance, she and Aibileen continue their collaboration and soon more women come forward to tell their stories - and as it turns out, they have a lot to say.

Along the way, unlikely friendships are forged and a new sisterhood emerges, but not before everyone in town has a thing or two to say themselves when they become unwittingly - and unwillingly - caught up in the changing times.

Tickets only £5 matinees and £7/£5 concessions for evenings.

To book, call the box office on 01727 844488 or visit www.alban-arena.co.uk

Mark's back home with Dickens classic

INTERVIEW

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Baroque Theatre Company

Grove Theatre, Dunstable

Wednesday at 7.30pm

MARK DRAKE is back on his home turf.

But whereas eight years ago he was performing with the rock bands Delphian Complex and Arrows at Bedford music venues Esquires and The Angel, this week he'll be stepping onstage at The Grove Theatre, Dunstable, in an adaptation of Charles Dickens' popular classic novel, Great Expectations.

From rock musician to actor is an interesting journey and, fortunately for Mark, hasn't so far proved to be too tricky.

Born and brought up in Harlington and Flitwick where he still lives, Mark *(pictured)* studied for a degree in Media Performance at the University of Bedfordshire. "But just as I graduated," he says, "the fortunes of the band took off and I spent the next few years gigging and recording.

"When the band folded I really wanted to get back into acting. And it was quite strange because I just happened to be chatting to a mate who told me about open auditions that were taking place in London for the lead part in a show at Waterloo East Theatre.

"There was just a couple of weeks in which to learn and rehearse the part because someone had dropped out but I got the job and from that I got an agent and a part in a feature film called Two days in the Smoke that is due to be released later this year."

But that wasn't the first filming that Mark had done. Back in 2010 he worked with Justin Doherty and Neil Fox, the founders of Luton Film Stock festival. The short film, It's Natural to be Afraid, has scooped up a number of awards and critically acclaimed reviews - not least for Mark's performance as the joint lead character.

"I'm very lucky" he says. "In the 18 months since I started acting I haven't been out of work. Now my agent is in talks about some more theatre work that would start once this tour is over and there may be some more film work in the pipeline."

And what can we look forward to with this production of Great Expectations? "Well, Charles Dickens' great-great grandson Gerald Dickens is the consultant on the show so it has the genuine Dickens stamp of approval.

"But also, this is the first time Baroque Theatre Company has toured nationally and the show has been getting fantastic reviews," says Mark. "It's a more comedic adaptation with some very subversive humour - but it's really family-friendly."

And will Mark be drawing on any of his rock music past and singing in the show? "No, I've left those days behind," he says emphatically. "I've told my agent: never put me forward for musical theatre."

That will disappoint former Delphian Complex fans but you can see Mark playing Joe Gargary in Dickens' Great Expectations this Wednesday at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable. And, coincidentally, fellow Baroque company member Lloyd Morris, who is playing the convict Abel Magwitch, is another mid-Bedfordshire lad; he comes from Ampthill originally.

JUDY RILEY

A witty look at trio's love lives

THEATRE

ALL THE SINGLE LADIES

The Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage

Wednesday at 7.45pm

GIRL power is the order of the day as brand new comedy 'All the Single Ladies' takes to the stage.

Starring Leslie Ash, Brooke Kinsella and Tara Flynn, it tells the story of three women and their experiences of love and relationships including lies, deceit, red faces, regrets, hangovers and revenge.

Liz (Leslie Ash) is a woman who calls the shots. Orla (Tara Flynn) has waited so long for Mr Right she hasn't noticed her Prince has turned into a frog and Alison (Brooke Kinsella) is just too young to have been left on her own.

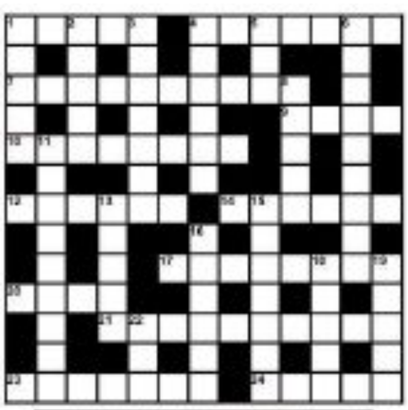
Full of wit and hilarity, this sparkling comedy will have audiences in stitches as past romances unravel and future love is pondered.

Every woman in the audience will be able to relate to these remarkable characters. One has been married seven times. One would settle for being introduced to his friends; the other has just lost the love of her life.

It seems these women have little in common but when was a woman all that she seems?

Tickets cost £22 and can be booked by calling the box office on 01438 363200 or visit www.gordon-craig.co.uk

PUZZLE CORNER



THE THINKER

ACROSS
1 Suffered pain from electric power he'd touched (5)
4 Residents are sick of posh ice maker (7)
7 Rag on TV – men attack with authority (10)
9 Sheet from Cairo, perhaps (4)
10 New date includes fast for those who can do it (8)
12 Serve out loose stones, no? (8)
14 Before arrival of late characters (6)
17 Damaged, but ready for frying (8)
20 School of distinction makes a comeback (4)
21 Quote Turin method for reducing flow (10)
23 Met at PT class to have a go (7)
24 Built a shed in the world of the dead (5)

DOWN
1 In Penang, steamy nervous tension (6)
2 Hot love, poor surroundings (5)
3 Drive crazy with grenade attack (7)
4 Village play (6)
5 Relative's broadcast makes him a star (3)
6 United poor react differently (9)
8 Endless complaints I avoided in exchange (5)
11 Chart etc I prepared for designer (9)
13 Smooth, on time – it happens (5)
15 Drunken sot has money for bird (7)
16 Normal deterioration affects this bird (6)
18 Eighteen holes, then a few drinks (5)
19 Romantic encounters bear fruit (5)
22 Some resistance, mostly on behalf of Queen (3)

SOLUTION FOR LAST WEEK
ACROSS: 1.Stain 4.Cured 9.Elm 9.Spoon 11.Novel 12.Kit 13.Agile 14.Operate 16.Demonstrative 21.Buffalo 24.Aging 25.Nag 26.Verdi 27.Rogue 29.Cue 30.Reset 31.Mound
DOWN: 2.Top 3.Nankeen 4.Contortionist 5.Revue 6.Delta 7.Smoke 9.Stand 10.Opium 15.Rut 17.Oaf 18.Anagram 19.Icing 20.Eagle 21.Bench 22.Fiver 23.Acres 28.Urn

SU DOKU

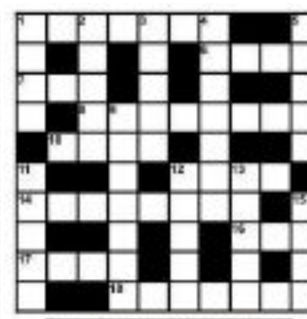
		8	2		5		7	
7								
				9		3		4
3						1		
				4				
		5			8			2
6		2		3				
								6
	4		7		1	9		

Complete the grid so that all rows, columns and 3x3 boxes contain the numbers 1 to 9. Solution next week.

FIND THE WORDS

T	O	P	R	E	E	N	V	M	O	L	D	R
E	Z	I	E	R	F	R	O	E	H	C	U	R
S	S	O	B	M	E	T	P	O	L	L	H	S
G	M	S	L	L	I	E	O	T	T	C	E	E
T	I	O	O	F	D	Z	N	O	T	S	N	R
P	T	Y	U	B	R	E	S	E	T	E	E	A
N	A	L	R	L	M	I	C	E	V	T	D	F
E	L	I	K	A	D	R	A	O	S	O	A	O
M	T	L	N	Y	I	F	L	A	R	Y	F	T
A	T	R	I	T	A	P	L	N	T	A	D	T
N	O	C	R	R	T	P	O	D	L	L	T	S
R	O	H	P	O	F	A	P	T	I	N	O	E
O	Y	R	I	A	P	O	T	G	G	I	M	E

Find the words: Up, down, forwards, backwards, straight or diagonal. This week: Decoration:
Decorate, Scallop, Frill, Etch, Frieze, Prink, Topiary, Paint, Mould, Emboss, Ruche, Ornament, Gild, Inlay, Adorn, Tattoo, Veneer, Motif, Plaster, Festoon



QUICKSOLVE?

ACROSS
1. Ardent love (7)
6. Peak (4)
7. Court (3)
8. Cold dessert (8)
10. Holly (4)
12. Simmer (4)
14. Fighter (8)
16. Lubricate (3)
17. Lion's call (4)
18. Ruler (7)

DOWN
1. Chess piece (4)
2. Damage (5)
3. Contents list (5)
4. Tell story (7)
5. Taste (5)
9. Blame (7)
11. Weapon (5)
12. Drink noisily (5)
13. Wear away (5)
15. Badly (4)

Nº	7	-	9
Fun!	+	8	÷
38	4	x	8

Use all the numbers and signs to make the star total. Do calculations in strict order from left to right with no brackets - eg 8+8÷4x7-9=19

Last week: 9 x 9 + 3 ÷ 2 - 7 = 35

E	BRAIN	C
T		I
	L	
L		N
E	STRAIN	E

How many words of four letters or more can you make? No plurals, proper names or foreign words. All must include the centre letter. Good: 19 Maestro: 28+

C	A	C	H	E	O	P
Y	P	P	A	S	S	L
C	H	U	R	R	H	E
N	O	O	E	U	A	A
A	T	V	R	P	L	T
F	O	R	O	S	E	S
C	Y	N	I	C	E	R

MATCH FIVE

Amongst all the five letter words, can you find the five that appear in both grids? (Forwards, backwards, up, down, straight or diagonal)

S	T	O	R	Y	S	C
E	H	R	S	R	U	P
P	S	P	O	R	T	H
A	L	T	S	U	O	O
N	U	E	A	H	T	T
S	R	I	A	L	A	O
Y	P	R	E	T	L	A

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FOOTBALL FOCUS SPECIAL: WHEN NOEL MET MARIO

BBC2, 10.50pm

Now here's a programme title we never expected to see! But, when you think about it, it's not as strange as it might first appear. Noel Gallagher is a staunch Manchester City supporter – arguably the club's most famous fan – while Mario Balotelli has become arguably City's biggest player, although not necessarily because of his skills on the pitch. In this interview, originally recorded for Football Focus, Gallagher tries to dispel some of the myths surrounding Balotelli in an attempt to find out what really makes him tick.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.00** Live Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix. Coverage from the Shanghai International Circuit (Start-time 8.00am). **10.15** The Big Questions. **11.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.00** Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.50** Human Planet. (R) **2.50** Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix – Rerun. **4.50** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.20** Songs of Praise.

6.05 Titanic with Len Goodman. (R)
6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker tries his hand at extreme mountain-biking in the south Pennines, while elsewhere in the area, Ellie Harrison takes a walk with local poet Simon Armitage. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Manchester Town Hall.
9.00 Silent Witness. Part one of two. Nikki tries to outwit a serial killer.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. With guest host Stephen Mangan.
11.10 Witness to Auschwitz. An examination of the controversy surrounding a soldier's Holocaust account.
11.40 FILM: Lady in the Water. (2006) Fantasy, starring Paul Giamatti.

1.20 Weatherview. **1.25** Sign Zone: Empire. (R) **2.25** Holby City. (R) **3.25** Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) **4.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **7.50** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Flog It! (R) **12.15** Great British Menu. (R) **12.45** Film: The Magnificent Showman. (1964) Circus drama, starring John Wayne. **3.00** Film: A Night to Remember. (1958) Fact-based drama, starring Kenneth More. **5.00** Sandhurst. (R)

6.00 The Hairy Bikers' Bakeation. Si King and Dave Myers travel through Austria, where they make authentic apfelstrudel, Linzertorte and a chocolate gugelhupf cake, and take time out to learn how to yodel. (R)
7.00 Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix Highlights. Action from the third race of the season.
8.00 Best of Top Gear. The fourth and final collection of the show's highlights. Last in the series.
9.00 This World: Norway's Massacre. The inside story of the mass killings by Anders Behring Breivik in July 2011.
10.00 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of Manchester United v Aston Villa.
10.50 Football Focus Special: When Noel Met Mario. Noel Gallagher chats to Mario Balotelli.
11.20 Twenty Twelve. A decision has to be made on the future of the Olympic Stadium.
11.50 FILM: Lone Star. (1996) Mystery, starring Chris Cooper.

2.00 BBC News. **4.30** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **11.25** Long Lost Family. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **1.50** The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) **2.05** The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) **2.35** Film: Columbo: Undercover. (1994) Crime drama. **4.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **5.00** Regional News ; Weather.**5.15** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** Live FA Cup Football. Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 6.00pm).

8.00 The Big Quiz – Benidorm v Essex. Stephen Mulhern hosts a one-off quiz in which stars of hit comedy Benidorm and reality show The Only Way Is Essex answer questions about both programmes.
9.00 Titanic. The ship hits the iceberg and panic takes hold, with the passengers and crew rushing to save lives and make the most of what little time they may have left. Last in the series.
10.00 Words of the Titanic. Well-known actors including Richard E Grant and Roger Allam give readings from the diaries, accounts and letters of the Titanic's passengers and crew. Charles Dance narrates.
11.00 ITV News; Weather.
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.10 The Zone. ITV News Headlines. **2.15** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.35** Channel 4 Presents – Ellie Simmonds 2012. An insight into the life of the gold medal-winning Paralympic swimmer. (R) **7.40** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** Film: Love Happens. (2009) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Aaron Eckhart and Jennifer Aniston. **4.10** Film: Saving the Titanic. (2012) Premiere. Fact-based drama, starring David Wilmot.

6.10 Channel 4 News.
6.40 4thought.tv. Exorcism.
6.45 FILM: Marley and Me. (2008) Comedy drama, starring Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston and Kathleen Turner.
9.00 Homeland. Brody resolves to finish his mission after trying to sever his ties with Abu Nazir, while Carrie becomes embroiled in a public-relations nightmare following the mosque shooting.
10.00 FILM: The Last Exorcism. (2010) Premiere. Horror, starring Patrick Fabian.
11.45 FILM: The Hills Have Eyes. (2006) Horror remake, starring Aaron Stanford.

1.45 Facejacker. (R) **2.10** Hit the Road Jack. **2.55** Comedy Lab: Mr & Mrs Hotty Hott Hot Show. (R) **3.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.30** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igam Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.50** Olivia. (R) **8.05** Little Princess. (R) **8.20** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Making the Magic: Disneyland Paris – 20th Anniversary. **10.30** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.45** Grey's Anatomy. (R) **11.40** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **12.40** Inside the Titanic. (R) **2.45** Film: Pooh's Heffalump Movie. (2005) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Jim Cummings. **4.00** Film: Toy Story 2. (1999) Animated sequel, with the voice of Tom Hanks. **5.55** 5 News Weekend.

6.00 FILM: Practical Magic. (1998) Fantasy, starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman.
8.00 Once Upon a Time; 5 News Update.
9.00 FILM: The Patriot. (2000) Action adventure, starring Mel Gibson.

12.05 America's Planned War on Britain: Revealed. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** The FBI Files. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Hana's Helpline. (R)

Digital

ITV2
2.30 Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) **5.00** Film: Jurassic Park III (2001) **6.45** Britain's Got Talent **8.00** Britain's Got More Talent **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Film: Notting Hill (1999)

ITV3
2.45 Film: The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **4.35** Foyle's War **6.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Film: Smokey and the Bandit II (1980) **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round two from Donington Park. **6.00** The Sweeney **7.00** Minder **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Indian Premier League Cricket **10.00** Film: Rocky IV (1985) **11.55** Film: Rocky V (1990)

BBC THREE
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2011: Not in 3D **7.10** Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.40** The Voice UK **9.00** Don't Tell the Bride USA **9.50** Don't Tell the Bride: Greatest Moments **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad!

BBC FOUR
7.00 Ray Mears Goes Walkabout **9.00** Film: Walkabout (1971) **10.35** Mark Lawson Talks to Mark Rylance **11.35** Leotards and Vests: The Great British Workout

E4
5.50 90210 **6.50** Film: Star Trek: First Contact (1996) **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Made in Chelsea

FILM4
2.50 Carry On Up the Khyber (1968) **4.35** Time Bandits (1981) **7.00** Home Alone (1990) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **9.00** The Piano (1993) A mute Scottish widow travels to New Zealand for an arranged marriage, and embarks on a passionate affair with a gruff settler. Period drama, with Holly Hunter and Harvey Keitel. **11.20** The Full Monty (1997) Comedy, starring Robert Carlyle.

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Ideally we are seeking a teacher who is qualified in the TEACCH approach but would consider someone who expressed a commitment to undertake training.

Visits to the school prior to making an application are most welcome. We look forward to hearing from you.

An application form and further details are available from the Headteacher or Mrs. J. Cross, 01582 661342, or via email: office@streetfield.beds.sch.uk

Closing date: Tuesday 1st May 2012

Streetfield is committed to safeguarding the welfare of young people. All appointments are subject to enhanced CRB checks.

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www.admin@arnold.beds.sch.uk

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Leadership spine: 11 - 15

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- Support the monitoring, overview and intervention of all processes that promote effective teaching and learning for all KS2 children;
- Lead a dedicated Key Stage Team to provide strong pastoral guidance;
- Liaise effectively with agencies to access appropriate additional support.

Arnold Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and/or vulnerable adults.

Contact Wendy Simpson (Office Manager) to arrange a visit w/c 16th April 2012.
Application details are also available from our academy website: www.arnold.beds.sch.uk
Closing date for both posts: Noon May 1st 2012
Interviews for Leader of Key Stage Two: Thursday 17th May 2012
Interviews for Deputy Headteacher: Friday 18th May 2012

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Closing date 1st May, 2012

No agencies please

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MPS/UPS

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For an application form and further details please contact Mrs Bernadette Dolan at the school address or on 01582 571597, email: denbigh.primary.admin@luton.gov.uk
Closing date: 3rd May 2012
Interview dates: 10th & 11th May 2012
CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.

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DENBIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Denbigh Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 1NS

Required for September 2012

Year Team Achievement Leader –

MPS/UPS + TLR2A £6196

We are looking to appoint a YTAL to lead, develop, support and enhance the teaching practice of others. This is an ideal opportunity for an exemplary teacher to join our friendly and caring school.

Do you:

- have high expectations of the children you work with?
- have strong interpersonal and communication skills?
- have a clear vision for raising standards across the curriculum?

We can offer:

- a friendly, caring school
- dedicated, hard working staff who are committed to raising standards
- fantastic CPD and career opportunities
- wonderful, well behaved children who are eager to learn
- an amazing opportunity to lead and manage change
- an experienced and supportive senior leadership team

Come and join us on our journey to become outstanding

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

Closing date: 3rd May 2012
Interview dates: 10th & 11th May 2012

For an application form and further details please contact Mrs Bernadette Dolan at the school address or on 01582 571597 email: denbigh.primary.admin@luton.gov.uk

CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.

Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.

Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau

Leaflet Sales Executive

Full Time | £15,000 + bonus

We are looking for a highly motivated, energetic, results-orientated salesperson that excels at bringing in new business by building relationships with new and existing customers.

Using your skills in prospecting and negotiating, you will be offering leaflet advertising solutions and packages across our portfolio of newspaper titles.

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Central Bedfordshire

School Appointments

Beecroft Lower School

CLASS TEACHER

MPS (Quote ref: 2851)

Full-time

We require a Teacher, for September 2012, who is passionate about the education of young children and is able to provide a high quality educational experience for all.

The staff and governors at Beecroft Lower School are looking for applicants who will work tirelessly in order to attain high standards in learning and teaching, whilst building children's self-esteem and inspiring them, in order that they reach their full potential.

CO-ORDINATOR FOR BUZZ BEES CARE CLUB

£16,054 - £17,161 pa, pro rata (Quote ref: 2852)

Part-time, 15.5 hours per week,
07:55 - 08:55 and 15:30 - 18:00
Temporary contract, one year in the first instance

Beecroft Lower School requires a Care Club Co-ordinator. You will be required to lead and manage an exciting, safe and homely environment that is offered to the children at Beecroft before and after school, at 'Buzz Bees Care Club'. You will be required to carry out a range of tasks, you will need to plan, prepare and implement a range of leisure activities for children aged four to nine years and ensure that the children are looked after effectively.

You will need to:

- Like children
- Be passionate about the role
- Work tirelessly to build children's self-esteem and inspire them
- Ensure that children have an enjoyable and relaxed time in the Care Club
- Be organised and well prepared
- Lead and manage other staff and the Care Club provision.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our supportive and friendly team, then please contact the school to arrange a visit. Visits are warmly welcomed.

For more information and to apply for both roles please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jobs alternatively please contact Helen Smith on 01582 663486 or email: h.smith@cbc.beds.sch.uk

Closing date for both roles: 25 April 2012 at 12noon
Interview date for both roles: To be confirmed.

Posts working with either children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal records.

Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all employees, volunteers and contractors to share this commitment.

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

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Central Bedfordshire

Shefford Lower School

Shefford Lower is a thriving, successful school with friendly, supportive staff and happy, well motivated children. Due to increased pupil numbers and the end of fixed-term contracts, we have the following posts for September 2012:

CLASS TEACHERS

MPS (Quote ref: 2865)

2 x Full-time, permanent
1 x Maternity cover
1 x Full-time, permanent (plus TLR 2A for leading either Maths or English)

You will set high standards for yourself and the children, have enthusiasm and will be dedicated to meeting every child's needs through a creative approach to learning.

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

For further details and an application pack please visit www.sheffordlowerschool.ik.org or contact Tracey Callender, Headteacher, Shefford Lower School, School Lane, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5XA. Tel: 01462 629123. Email: shefford@cbc.beds.sch.uk

Closing date: 26th April 2012 at 9.30am.
Interview date: To be confirmed.

Posts working with either children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal records.

Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all employees, volunteers and contractors to share this commitment.

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

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DENBIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Denbigh Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 1NS

Required for September 2012

EYFS/KS1 Phase Leader –

MPS/UPS + TLR2C £6196

Are you an excellent Early Years/KS1 practitioner with a proven track record of success?

We are looking to appoint a talented and highly motivated Phase Leader who:

- is an outstanding, dynamic and inspirational classroom practitioner
- has a passion for teaching young children
- has high expectations of all children
- has excellent knowledge of effective early years practice
- has strong interpersonal and communication skills
- is hard working, flexible and resilient
- is determined to make a real difference to children's lives
- is able to lead, manage and inspire our team
- is enthusiastic, creative and shows initiative

We can offer:

- a friendly, caring school
- dedicated, hard working staff who are committed to raising standards
- fantastic CPD and career opportunities
- wonderful, well behaved children who are eager to learn
- an amazing opportunity to lead and manage change in an Early Years setting
- an experienced and supportive senior leadership team

Come and join us on our journey to become outstanding

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed

Closing date: 3rd May 2012
Interview dates: 10th & 11th May 2012

For an application form and further details please contact Mrs Bernadette Dolan at the school address or on 01582 571597 email: denbigh.primary.admin@luton.gov.uk

CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.

Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.
Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau

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Email; rbloom@robertbloomfield.beds.sch.uk
Full application pack on www.robertbloomfield.beds.sch.uk
Required for September 2012
Senior Teacher – in charge of TEACHING SCHOOL - TLR1
(subject to review)
On the Senior Management Team, with specific responsibility for Teaching School delivery
Subject Leader for HUMANITIES - TLR1
Subject Leader for COMPUTING & ICT - TLR1
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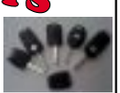

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Public Notices

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOTICE IS GIVEN UNDER TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 1995

Site: Land at Roebuck Close

Description: Erection of 110 dwellings, demolition of two existing dwellings for new access (Cades Close), creation of emergency access from Roebuck Close.

Application No: 12/00393/FUL

Site: Land at Ickley Close

Description: Erection of 54 dwellings and 2 apartments and creation of accesses.

Application No: 12/00392/FUL

Site: Land at Bradley Road

Desciption: Erection of 40 dwellings and 3 apartments and demolition of existing dwelling to allow new vehicular access from Thirlestone Road.

Application No: 12/00404/FUL

The application and submitted details can be inspected using Public Access, the on-line planning service at www.eplan.luton.gov.uk and enter the application number into the Application Search. This site can be accessed at any library free of charge. If you wish to discuss the proposal, please contact the Case Officer on Luton 546317.

Any representations concerning the proposal should be made to the Development Control Manager within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number above. This can be done in writing or on-line through public access.

Dated 15th April 2012

Development Control Manager

Public Notices

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

(NORTHBOUND OFF-SLIP FROM A6 BARTON BYPASS, BARTON LE CLAY) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2012

Central Bedfordshire

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central Bedfordshire Council has made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle, except a vehicle being used for fire, police or ambulance purposes in an emergency, from proceeding along that length of the A6 northbound off-slip from the A6 Barton bypass which extends from the A6 Barton bypass to the B655 Luton Road.

This temporary closure is required to enable work on vegetation to take place and shall apply to such extent as may from time to time be indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. Where possible access will be maintained to property and premises but may be restricted from time to time according to local signing.

It is expected that the works will take place over ONE WEEK from 16th to 20th April 2012 between 9am and 3.30pm. Specific dates will be advertised locally closer to the time.

The alternative routes available for vehicles affected by the proposed Order are:-

Proceed north on A6 to roundabout with Bedford Rd., Barton le Clay. Take 3rd exit and continue on Bedford Rd., then Luton Rd to junction with off-slip and site.

The proposed Order will come into operation on 16th April 2012 for a period of four months or until the proposed works have been completed, as detailed above, whichever is the earlier.

For further information please contact Central Bedfordshire Highways, Tel: 0300 300 8049.

DATED 11th April 2012.

Central Bedfordshire Council
Technology House, Ampthill Road
Bedford MK42 9BD

BASIL JACKSON
Assistant Director for Highways

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
(DUNSTABLE: FOOTPATH NO 17 AND BRIDLEWAY NO 20 AND CADDINGTON: PART OF FOOTPATH NO 7) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the Order made by Central Bedfordshire Council on the 11th April 2011 the effect of which will be to prohibit any person proceeding on foot as follows:

1. Footpath No 17, Dunstable which extends from Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OS GR) TL 0262 2185 (Map point A) east to OS GR TL 0349 2185 (Map point B)
2. Part of Footpath No 7, Caddington which extends from OS GR TL 0362 2193 (Map point C) generally east to OS GR TL 0440 2214 (Map point D)

Also to prohibit any person proceeding on foot, horseback or lead a horse or cycle along:

3. Bridleway No 20, Dunstable which extends from OS GR TL 0349 2185 (Map point B) generally east north east to OS GR TL 0362 2193 (Map point C).

has been continued in force with the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport until 22 October 2012.

These temporary closures are required to enable construction works to take place for the Luton Dunstable Busway and the new emergency maintenance access and cycle track. The closures are expected to continue from 17 April 2012 until 22 October 2012.

The alternative routes for footpath and bridleway users while the closure is in operation will be:

From OS GR TL 0262 2185 (Map point A) proceed south east along Footpath No 19, Dunstable for approx 500m to its junction with Half Moon Lane at OS GR TL 0297 2150 (Map point E). Cross the land and proceed through the kissing gate. Continue generally east along Bridleway No 18, Dunstable across the field for approx 400m to OS GR TL 0341 2156 (Map Point F), continue generally north east along Footpath No 24, Dunstable for approx 305m to OS GR TL 0367 2173 (Map point G). Continue along Footpath No 45, Caddington for approx 985m to OS GR TL 0460 2195 (Map point H) and then proceed north west along an unaffected part of Footpath No 7, Caddington for approx 285m to OS GR TL 0440 2214 (Map Point D) and site and vice versa.

The Order will continue in force until 22nd October 2012 or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier. If the works are not completed within six months the Order may be extended for a longer period with the consent of the Secretary of State for Transport.

For further information, please contact Michelle Flynn, Central Bedfordshire Council, Tel: 0300 300 6072.

DATED 11th April 2012

Technology House, Ampthill Road
Bedford MK42 9BD

DAVID LEVERINGTON
Rights of Way Team Leader

THE LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

I, Mr Shahan Ahmed of Cafe Shimla, 76 Wellington Street, Luton, Beds, LU1 5AA am applying for the grant of a premises licence.

If granted, the licence will enable the following to take place: sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises / sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises / provision of late night refreshment / consisting of: Monday to Sunday 10:00 to 24:00

Persons wishing to make representations in respect to this application may do so by writing to: Licensing Service, Luton Borough Council, Town Hall, Luton, Beds LU1 2BQ within 28 days from the date of this notice. A copy of the Application is also kept at the above address and may be viewed during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is a level 5 fine on standard scale.

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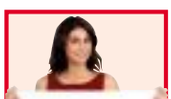

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Vauxhall's new Astra VXR will produce more power and torque than any car

Vauxhall's new Astra VXR will produce more power and torque than any car in its class and will achieve a sub 6-second 0-60mph time – quicker than any main rival - when it arrives in UK showrooms this summer.

Its keen UK pricing of £26,995 will undercut that of the less powerful Scirocco R, and will include a mechanical limited slip differential and 19-inch rims in its kit-list, neither of which is standard on either the VW or the Renault Megane Sport, the VXR's other main competitor.

The UK will be the largest market for the Astra VXR and media will have the chance to see the wraps come off the first Vauxhall version at Geneva. Based on the GTC's platform and powered by a 2.0-litre turbocharged direct injection engine, the VXR produces 280PS and a mighty 400Nm of torque – 40-50Nm more than key rivals - enough for it to achieve a top speed of 155mph and accelerate from 0-60mph in just 5.9 seconds.

But while the Astra VXR is based on the new GTC, it has benefited from a raft of bespoke chassis modifications, transforming it into a focused, high-performance coupe. Setting it apart from all other current Astras is a specially developed mechanical limited slip differential, which works on the front wheels. In conjunction with the GTC's sophisticated HiPerStrut (High Performance Strut), the LSD provides the Astra VXR with exceptional lateral grip and traction through bends.

Vauxhall is opening UK order books today for the Astra VXR, and anticipates that customers will receive first cars in July

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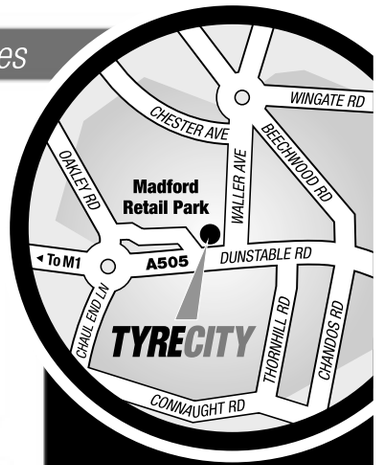

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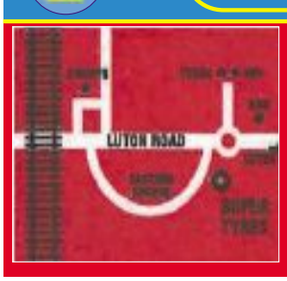

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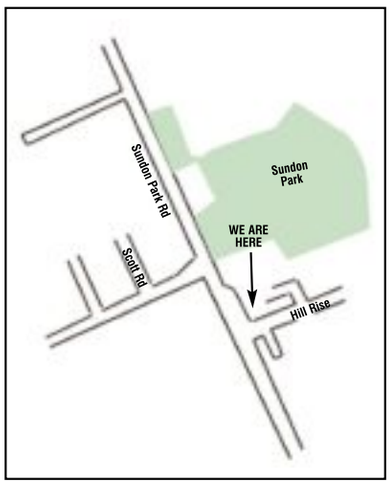

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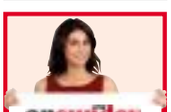
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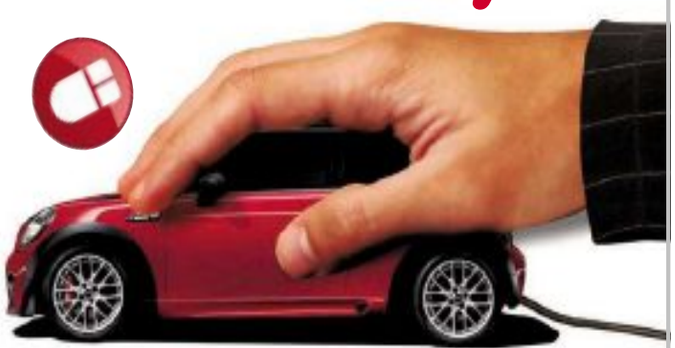

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BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

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BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

Boucaud eyes time to shine with new Town boss in charge

■ continued from back
is try my best and hopefully he'll see that and pick me.

"I've got to try to impress, like all the players, and take any opportunity that is given to me."

Boucaud also said that although it was disappointing to draw the game, the players were still positive that the side would be in the top-five come the end of the season.

He said: "If we win our two games in hand we're in the play-offs, it's still in our own hands like everyone knows.

"Expectation comes with football. Everyone expects us to be top of the league by 30 points but that doesn't happen.

"It's never been mathematically impossible for us not to be in the play-offs and we've still got the opportunity to go up."

The midfielder also revealed that he thought his header in the last minute of stoppage time had found the back of the net.

He said: "I've never scored a header in my career and when I saw it coming towards me I did think, 'I've got to score this'.

"I got up, headed it and hoped for the best. I thought it was in but it didn't go my way."

Fellow substitute Dan Gleeson also said that he was pleased to come through his second half appearance unscathed – after a lengthy period on the sidelines through injury – and that the new training regime had helped him.

He said: "I'm delighted to have been involved. If you'd have said three weeks ago that I'd have played in any game I'd have snapped your hand off.

"Being out for so long is never good in football.

"The new manager has brought in new ideas and new theories. The training has benefitted me and that can only help me get stronger and fitter.

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER TABLE

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2	Wrexham	43	28	8	7	79	30	49	92
3	Mansfield	44	23	14	7	82	48	34	83
4	K'minster	44	22	10	12	82	59	23	76
5	York City	43	20	14	9	78	45	33	74
6	Southport	44	20	12	12	68	66	2	72
7	Luton Town	42	19	14	9	72	42	30	71
8	Gateshead	43	20	10	13	64	58	6	70
9	Grimsby	44	19	12	13	79	59	20	69
10	Forest Green	44	18	13	13	64	44	20	67
11	Cambridge U	43	18	13	12	53	38	15	67
12	Braintree	44	17	11	16	75	74	1	62
13	Barrow	44	16	8	20	58	74	-16	56
14	Ebbsfleet	43	14	11	18	64	75	-11	53
15	Alfreton	44	14	9	21	60	84	-24	51
16	Tamworth	43	11	14	18	45	65	-20	47
17	Lincoln City	44	12	10	22	53	63	-10	46
18	Stockport Co	44	10	15	19	54	73	-19	45
19	Newport Co	42	10	13	19	51	61	-10	43
20	AFC Telford	43	9	15	19	44	62	-18	42
21	Hayes	44	10	8	26	56	88	-32	38
22	Darlington (R)	43	10	12	21	44	70	-26	32
23	Kettering (R)	44	8	8	28	38	96	-58	29
24	Bath City (R)	44	6	10	28	38	85	-47	28

C = CHAMPIONS, R = RELEGATED

BENCHMARK: Manager Paul Buckle (centre) in the dugout during yesterday's 0-0 draw at Alfreton

photo by Gareth Owen

Buckle hails difference in Hatters despite stalemate

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.com

LUTON manager Paul Buckle said that he felt his side deserved to win the game against Alfreton Town yesterday.

Despite a number of chances from striker Andre Gray and an Andre Boucaud header which was cleared off the line in stoppage time, the Hatters left to rue two dropped points, though they received a let-off in their quest for a play-off spot as nearest rivals Southport and York also drew.

However, Buckle said he was delighted with the side's performance and that the players had listened to his messages about communication on the pitch, winning back the ball, and defending set pieces.

He said: "The work rate was fantastic, the transformation between Braintree and that today was a huge step forward and is something we've got to maintain.

"We were just more organised. I asked Mark (Tyler) when was the last time we kept a clean sheet and he couldn't remember so that tells a story in itself.

"If we got those couple of goals, which I feel we thoroughly deserved in the first half, we would have marched on, but on the whole we deserved to win.

"If we keep playing like that, we'll get on top and win a lot of games like we showed against Hayes.

"I'm delighted and I'm proud of the players."

Asked about the missed chances, Buckle said: "Our system worked really well in the first half and we overloaded them.

"It didn't come off for us today but you can't knock players for missing chances, you must keep positive and keep encouraging them because if one of them went in we could have won that quite comfortably."

Alfreton did their best to use their physical presence to bully Luton off the ball time and again but for the first time in a long time the Hatters battled hard and dug in.

The game took time to settle into a closely fought and physical rhythm, but it was the Hatters that had the first attempt on goal.

A stunning strike from the revitalised Stuart Fleetwood – who bagged a brace in Easter Monday's 4-2 win over Hayes & Yeading – looped just over the bar, while minutes later a deflected Daniel Meadow header forced Luton goalie Mark Tyler into a low save.

The pace of Gray caused the Reds defence countless problems throughout the first half and the striker should have put the Hatters ahead with one of a number of decent attempts on goal, which included a cracking strike, unleashed despite Connor Franklin tugging his shirt.

His best attempt came minutes later after speeding clear of the defence but, faced with the opportunity to pass to Fleetwood for a sure-fire tap-in or go it alone, he was caught in two minds and pushed the ball out of play.

At the start of the second half Kovacs nodded a corner into the path of Godfrey Poku who blasted it over the bar.

It was frustrating for a Hatters side that held the majority of possession but boss Buckle made a triple substitution in an attempt to shake things up, bringing on Dan Gleeson, Andre Boucaud and Aaron O'Connor for Poku, Curtis Osano and Robbie Willmott, who appeared to be struggling with an injury.

Asked about the triple switch, Buckle said: "You've got take chances. We needed fresh impetus, fresh legs, and we're not afraid to change things because we've come here to win the game."

However, the move didn't have the desired effect and Alfreton slowly started to work their way back into the game, Meadows worming his way into the box on two occasions but unable to deliver a final product.

The Hatters were let off once again when a near-post header from Nathan Jarman had Tyler beaten, but luckily glanced the outside of his post.

Luton could have won it in the dying minutes, but shouts for a penalty in stoppage time for handball were turned down, to the disappointment of the travelling faithful.

With one minute left to play, Boucaud managed to get his head on a ball which looked to be heading for the back of the net, but was cleared off the line.

The result meant the side remain in seventh in the Conference and are still three points off a play-off position with a home clash against Ebbsfleet United to come on Tuesday evening.

Luton Town: Mark Tyler, Keith, Keane, George Pilkington, Alex Lawless, Robbie Willmott (Aaron O'Connor) , Stuart Fleetwood, Jake Howells, Curtis Osano (Dan Gleeson), Godfrey Poku (Andre Boucaud), Andre Gray, Janos Kovacs
Unused Subs: Craig McAllister, Shane Blackett
Alfreton Town: Jon Stewart, Josh Law, Connor Franklin, Anton Brown, Nathan Jarman (Paul Clayton), Nicky Deverdics (Theo Streete), Daniel Meadows, Darran Kempson, Adam Cunnington (Anthony Wilson)
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Luton name Allen as new chief are but found lacking as Staines come from behind

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LUTON failed to hold on to their first half lead as they lost at Snakey Lane.

Karl Rodell was sent off in the last minute, with Tesh Edwards and Mike Weston also sin-binned in the second half. The visitors went into the break 15-10 up after tries by Edwards and Jake Hobbs, with his brother adding the extras. Staines then took advantage of poor play by Luton to win the game. Dean Blinkhorn went over for a converted try but the Newlands Road side's indiscipline proved costly and the hosts scored 22 points.

Luton, who had already been relegated, began preparations for next season with the unveiling of former Bedford Blues back Paul Allen as their new director of rugby earlier this week.

Allen said:"The opportunity to become director of rugby at Luton was a chance I could not resist. Rugby is a huge part of my life and following the experience I have gained coaching in National Two with Hertford, I am more than ready to take on this role at Luton. With the majority of the current squad staying at Luton, some new faces and the excellent staff already at the club we are going to continue making Luton a great place to develop players, to enjoy the trappings of rugby life and over the next couple of years ensure Luton Rugby is stabilised as a National League club."

MIDLANDS TWO EAST (SOUTH)

HUNTINGDON & DIST' 72
STOCKWOOD PARK 3

AN in-form Huntingdon side proved too much for Stockwood yesterday, as they suffered a heavy away defeat.

Huntingdon had made several improvements to their side since Stockwood last played them and this showed in what was a total demolition. Picking up three injuries over the course of the game did not help the away side's cause but Huntingdon, who are sitting comfortably in the top half, proved to be just too strong.

Jason Carr kicked the only points of the game for Stockwood with a penalty.

MIDLANDS TWO EAST (SOUTH)

DUNSTABLIANS 13
PETERBORO' LIONS 19

A LATE penalty cost Dees yesterday, with Peterborough Lions scoring from the last play of the game.

Two first half tries put Dunstablians in good stead, with Jack Newton scoring from a break down the wing and Alan Ayres crossing the whitewash after a drive from a lineout.

They then extended their lead with a Joe Murphy penalty in the second half.

Peterborough fought back, scoring two tries in quick succession after the 60 minute mark, of which one was converted.

With five minutes to go and Peterborough on the defensive, a debatable penalty was given to the Cambridgeshire side.

From the resulting play, they scored their third try of the game which was converted.

Dunstablians were shocked at the outcome as they looked to be running out as winners with time running down.

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

Alfreton Town	0	0	Luton Town
Barrow	1	3	Cambridge Utd
Darlington	2	2	Bath City
Ebbsfleet Utd	3	2	AFC Telford Utd
Gateshead	1	0	Forest Green Rovers
Hayes & Yeading Utd	1	3	Mansfield Town
Kidderminster Harriers	6	1	Kettering Town
Stockport County	1	1	Braintree Town
Tamworth	2	2	Southport
Wrexham	2	2	Grimsby Town
York City	1	1	Newport County

EVO-STIK DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

Barton Rovers	2	4	Ashford Town
Beaconsfield SYCOB	1	3	Northwood
Bedfont Town	3	0	Daventry Town
Bedworth Utd	5	3	Slough Town
Biggleswade Town	2	3	Chertsey Town
Chalfont St. Peter	0	1	AFC Hayes
Fleet Town	0	1	St. Neots Town
Marlow	0	1	Aylesbury
North Greenford Utd	4	0	Rugby Town
Uxbridge	1	1	Leighton Town
Woodford Utd	2	3	Burnham

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Aylesbury Utd	3	2	St Margaretsbury
Biggleswade Utd	0	2	Tring Athletic
Broxbourne Borough	3	2	Haringey Borough
Colney Heath	2	1	Hanwell Town
Dunstable Town	0	1	Hillingdon Borough
Hadley	1	3	Hertford Tow
Hatfield Town	0	6	AFC Dunstable
Holmer Green	1	0	Harefield Utd
London Tigers	0	4	Berkhamsted
Oxhey Jets	0	1	Royston Town
Stotfold	0	0	Leverstock Green

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Amersham Town	1	2	Kentish Town
Buckingham Athletic	2	2	Langford
Chesham Utd Res	1	3	London Lions
Harpenden Town	0	2	Cockfosters
Kings Langley	2	1	Hoddesdon Town
London Colney	1	2	Bedford
New Bradwell St Peter	3	2	Sun Postal Sports
St Albans City Res	3	2	Ampthill Town
Stony Stratford Town	1	3	Tokyngton Manor
Welwyn Garden City	2	3	Cranfield Utd

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Bletchley Town	0	4	Kent Athletic
Caddington	0	4	Aston Clinton
Hale Leys Utd	3	4	Totternhoe
Risborough Rangers	7	0	MK Wanderers
The 61 FC (Luton)	3	2	Pitstone & Ivinghoe
Winslow Utd	1	2	Mursley Utd

Depleted Rovers sunk by Ashford

FOOTBALL

EVO-STIK DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

BARTON ROVERS 2
ASHFORD TOWN 4

A BARTON side missing seven first team players went down 4-2 to Ashford.

The hosts handed starts to reserve players Fred Obiri, Kyron Jackson and Kevin Ashby as they struggled to cope with the injuries.

Dave Parkinson opened the scoring on 32 seconds but Ashford equalised soon after. A delightful lob by Ricky Case restored the advantage but again the visitors were quick to level.

Ashford then scored twice in the second half to secure the victory.

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

DUNSTABLE TOWN 0
HILLINGDON BORO' 1

DEAN Brennan had a goal disallowed as Dunstable lost at home.

The defeat means Royston Town, who Town beat twice this season, have been promoted as champions.

Although the hosts dominated they were unable to score and when Brennan put the ball in the net two minutes before the break it was chalked off after he was judged to have committed a foul.

Chris Drake then netted the winner for Hillingdon on 49 minutes before Town's Lee Roache hit the underside of the bar.

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

HATFIELD TOWN 0
AFC DUNSTABLE 6

STERN words were needed at half time to kick Dunstable into life yesterday.

Bottom-of-the-table Hatfield put up strong resistance against their high-flying visitors, even having their share of the attacking play in a opening half which finished 0-0.

The second session started better, with Terry Billy showing great composure to score from 20 yards with 50 minutes gone.

Dunstable's other goals came from BJ Christie (2), Simon Bullard, Dermot Butler and Richard Parker.

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

TOTTERNHOE had goalkeeper Gary Duncan to thank for their 4-3 win at Hale Leys United. After going a goal down, Gary Simpson hit a brace, Adam Millard and 16-year-old Jon Clarke made it 4-1 – but Totternhoe had to hang on.

KENT ATHLETIC comfortably beat Bletchley Town 4-0 after a Kieron Bonnard double. Martin Powell's lob opened the scoring before Bonnard added two, and Wayne Hymus snatched a late fourth.

THE 61FC came out on top of a 3-2 thriller against Pitstone & Ivinghoe, but **CADDINGTON** had a day to forget as they were beaten 4-0 by Aston Clinton.

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE: The Academy Club fighters with patron and former world champion Billy Schwer (back centre) and head coach Mark Hofmann (back fourth from left)

Hofmann hopes show will help erase boxing shame

BOXING

MARK Hofmann is hoping his fighters can help show the good side of the sport after the disgraceful Derek Chisora and David Haye post-match scrap put a black mark on British boxing.

The Academy ABC host their first ever dinner show on Saturday at Luton Rugby Club and the head coach is delighted that scuffle and subsequent bans have not influenced his youngsters.

"That was terrible, a disgrace," he said of the press conference clash after Chisora's world heavyweight title defeat to Vitali Klitschko in February.

"They were right to ban him [Chisora]. If you get caught doing drugs in the Olympics then you're banned for life.

"That could have been worse than it was. As soon as he [Chisora] got up the security should have been on them - they let it happen."

Despite the widespread coverage of the incident and fears that it act as a negative influence, Hofmann is glad that his amateur boxers have condemned the actions of the two professionals.

He said: "The kids were talking about it but a lot of them were slagging it off and saying, 'it's bang out of order and a disgrace.' I like that because the worry was that it would be seen as acceptable and it's not.

"We've had a few kids with attitude but we have had a talk and they know the rules. We've set a few discipline procedures up and so far, touch wood, they've been sticking to it.

"It's a disciplined sport. You get in the ring and you've got to listen or you'll get hurt."

Saturday's show, where the bouts will start at 8pm, is set to feature 12 pugilists from the New Bedford Road club, including 13-year-old Tysie Gallagher - the only carded female fighter in the county.

"We are nervous but looking forward to it as it's our first dinner show," Hofmann said, adding: "Hopefully it is a success. All the kids have trained hard and are ready to go now. We got most of the juniors out to Oxford on Wednesday for some final sparring. They are all buzzing and looking forward to it."

The club's Steven Duffy is the only fighter set to make his ring debut, while there will also be a heavyweight on show in Liam McGinley.

Hofmann said: "I want to do some more technical work with Liam, but all their fitness is great. It's all about sharpening them up, getting them focused and getting the jabs working.

"I'd say most of them are ready to go now.

"Anyone who gets in the ring, win, lose or draw, they've got guts. I respect these kids."

■ For tickets go call 01582 969064, 07976645993 or email info@theacademyluton.com

JORDAN Reynolds kicked off a weekend double-header in his quest to win the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) title by disposing of Matthew Roberts 27-5 yesterday in the London semi-final.

It was the Lutonian's first piece of action for six months and saw him make his first apperance as a West Ham ABC fighter after switching from Stevenage ABC.

In last year's tournament Reynolds beat Roberts 14-4 and after improving on that score, he said: "I boxed his head off in the third round.

"He is more experienced than me. He's tall and an awkward southpaw but I knew I was stronger and I just stuck it on him."

Reynolds will face St Pancras' Box Cup gold medalist Charlie Worley today for a place in the national pre-quarter finals.

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New ideas from boss Buckle make the difference for Boucaud who's happy to start with a . . .

FRUSTRATION: Andre Gray battles for the ball but, despite a series of efforts, failed to get on the scoresheet yesterday
photo by Gareth Owen

Clean slate

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.com

ANDRE Boucaud has admitted that the introduction of new manager Paul Buckle has meant "a clean slate" for the players.

The midfielder *(pictured inset)*, who came on as a substitute in yesterday's 0-0 draw against Alfreton Town, could have scored a deciding goal in stoppage time but his header was cleared off the line.

The result meant that the Hatters stayed in seventh position in the Blue Square Bet Premier, but the former York City playmaker explained that the changes which have been implemented behind the scenes were starting to achieve results.

He said: "The new gaffer has brought in new ideas and all the players are taking it and buying into it, especially in terms of training which has been sharper.

"A new manager means a clean slate for everyone and all I can do

■ continued on page 58

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